

Burkina Faso Country Report to the Global Board

Executive Summary

Over the reporting period, THP-Burkina Faso (THP-Burkina) maintained a continuous focus on ensuring the self-reliance of the health program in each of its epicenters. Building upon its exclusive use of government-run health clinics at its epicenters, THP-Burkina developed a first-ever partnership agreement with the national Ministry of Health. This allowed greater partnership with medical professionals at the epicenter level, as was practiced at Boulkon Epicenter in June 2012 (see photo). THP-Burkina continued advancing four of its 10 Phase III epicenter rural banks toward government recognition.



Accomplishments

Health & Nutrition: Following many months of negotiations, THP-Burkina concluded a partnership agreement with the country's Ministry of Health. Epicenters work exclusively with government-run health clinics, ensuring that staffing, medical equipment and drug availability are a government responsibility. This new partnership agreement authorizes THP to implement health activities alongside health clinics anywhere in Burkina; to submit proposals to the Ministry in response to requests for proposals (RFPs); and to more easily develop partnerships with other actors working on health. The Ministry of Health has officially recognized THP's goals in the health sector and committed to facilitating THP's interventions by according the necessary authorizations and the technical support insofar as possible. This will be particularly relevant as THP-Burkina seeks to further integrate the 1,000 Days initiative into its regular health programming.

Microfinance Program: Documents have been drafted for the recognition of rural banks at four epicenters: Bougue, Yegueresso, Bissiga, and Sapouy. Additionally, a new microfinance software kit has been installed at two epicenters: Boulkon and Nagréongo. The software will improve the MFP's transaction capacities and provide a motivating training experience for rural bank managers, who were trained in the use of the software and provided with a manual to accompany future use. The software is designed to enhance the epicenter and the bank's ability to manage clients and loans. Its main functionalities include:

- Updating and monitoring accounts
- Updating and monitoring clients (including photo and signature information)

- Updating and monitoring operations: withdrawals, transfers, reimbursements, checks, annuities
- Updating and monitoring loans
- Updating and monitoring fixed-rate deposits
- Creating statistical analyses
- Ability to access a network

Advocacy & Awareness: THP-Burkina has made tremendous strides in building its profile among local and international NGOs operating in Burkina. In honor of International Women’s Day in March, THP hosted a conference at Sapouy Epicenter to discuss the role of women in climate change, an issue particularly pressing to the populations of Sapouy. Beyond the well-attended turnout of epicenter partners, the event was covered in the press by multiple sources.



Attendees at Sapouy Epicenter’s 2012 IWD celebration

Challenges

Formalizing Partnerships: As they transition toward self-reliance, each epicenter will begin working with partners outside of THP. To formalize this network, THP-Burkina has been supporting each epicenter in arranging formal agreements with townships and decentralized technical services such as health, agriculture, education and environment groups. This is a new experience for most epicenters, which are still learning how to market the program to potential partners and build trust among networks.

Staff Development: Emphasis has been placed on staff skills development. This has involved training with Microsoft Access 2007 for the M&E Officer, attendance at a THP-led MFP workshop in Dakar for the MFP and Credit Officers, and an AGRA-led training in Niger for the Program and M&E Officers.

Lessons Learned

Infrastructure for Self-reliance: In addition to skills development, self-reliance will require concrete infrastructure within communities. For example, the initiative described above to furnish MFPs with software technology, allowing bank managers access to more efficient financial accounting tools, is a best practice that THP will reproduce in other epicenters, especially those that have electricity.

Renewed Income-Generation: Also in the vein of promoting self-reliance, THP-Burkina has learned that a re-examination of income-generating activities will be necessary to ensure economic self-reliance.

Government Partnership: Health-related activity outputs far outpace the targets set for this period, largely thanks to its partnership with the Ministry of Health. Through this agreement, THP-Burkina received an exceptional amount of attention from the media and achieved wider-

scale broadcasting of important health messages. This important learning will be carried from the health sector to other sectors to achieve the same impact.

Partner Story

An interview with a partner at the health fair at Boulkon Epicenter in June 2012:

My name is Ouadéba Aminata. I'm from the village of Bendego in the township of Arbolé. I'm 35 years old and a nutrition health trainer in my village. We are happy that there are people who think of us and came with great doctors for free consultations today. Thanks to those consultations, I've been assured that I'm in good health and, in addition to that, I received important advice that will allow me to preserve my health. This event is very important for those of us who do not often have the opportunity to go for consultation because they typically cost a lot of money. As a trainer, I know this event contributes to the mobilization of people in the village for our animation sessions on health.



Doctors here today have revealed pathologies and given medicines at their disposal to patients. They have even detected some sick persons who need surgical operations. For those patients, doctors have taken responsibility for the future surgical needs and the cost that it will involve. I thank The Hunger Project and all its partners for this great offer to us.

Partnerships, Advocacy and Events

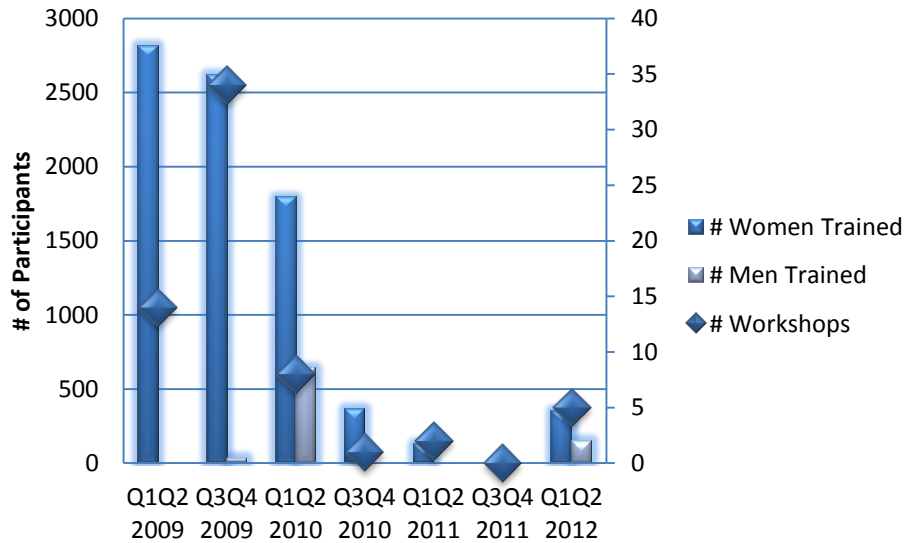
News of THP blanketed the media outlets, including several private and national press pieces. THP-Burkina's activities were also featured on several Television Nationale du Burkina (TNB) for the free health consultations at Boulkon Epicenter.

Country by Numbers

0	Epiconers	in Phase 1 (Mobilization)
0	Epiconers	in Phase 2 (Construction)
10	Epiconers	in Phase 3 (Progress)
5	Epiconers	In Phase 4 (Self-Reliant)
15	TOTAL	

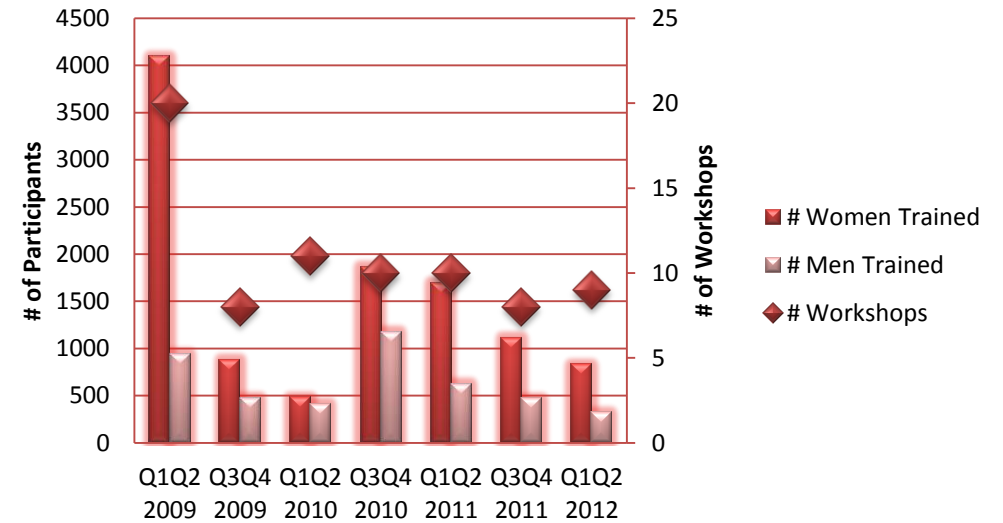
* All data presented herein is taken directly from the internal online M&E System, updated quarterly by Program Country M&E Officers. The Global Office works continuously with each M&E Officer to audit and verify this data.

WEP Workshops

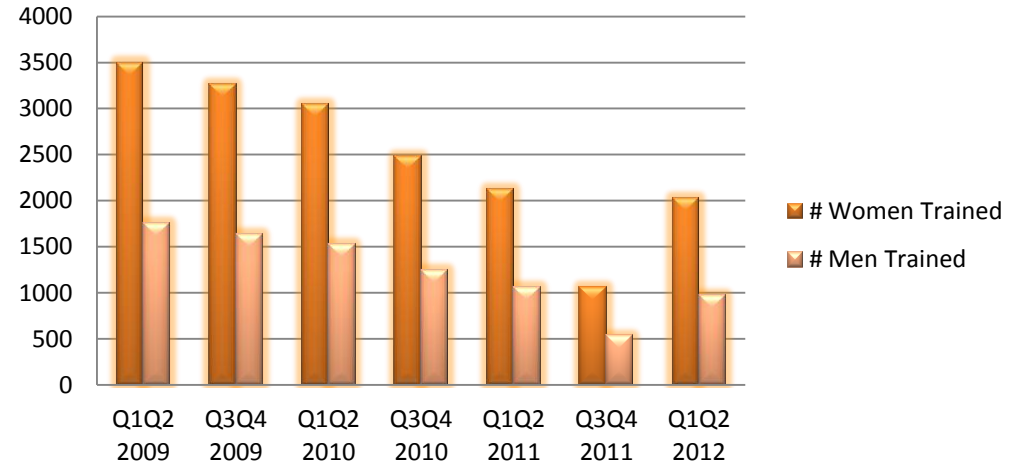


The reduction in WEP workshops is due solely to budget restrictions. With limited funds, THP-Burkina Faso made a strategic decision to redistribute funds to program areas with a greater demand from community partners—such as food security.

HIV/AIDS Gender Inequality Workshops

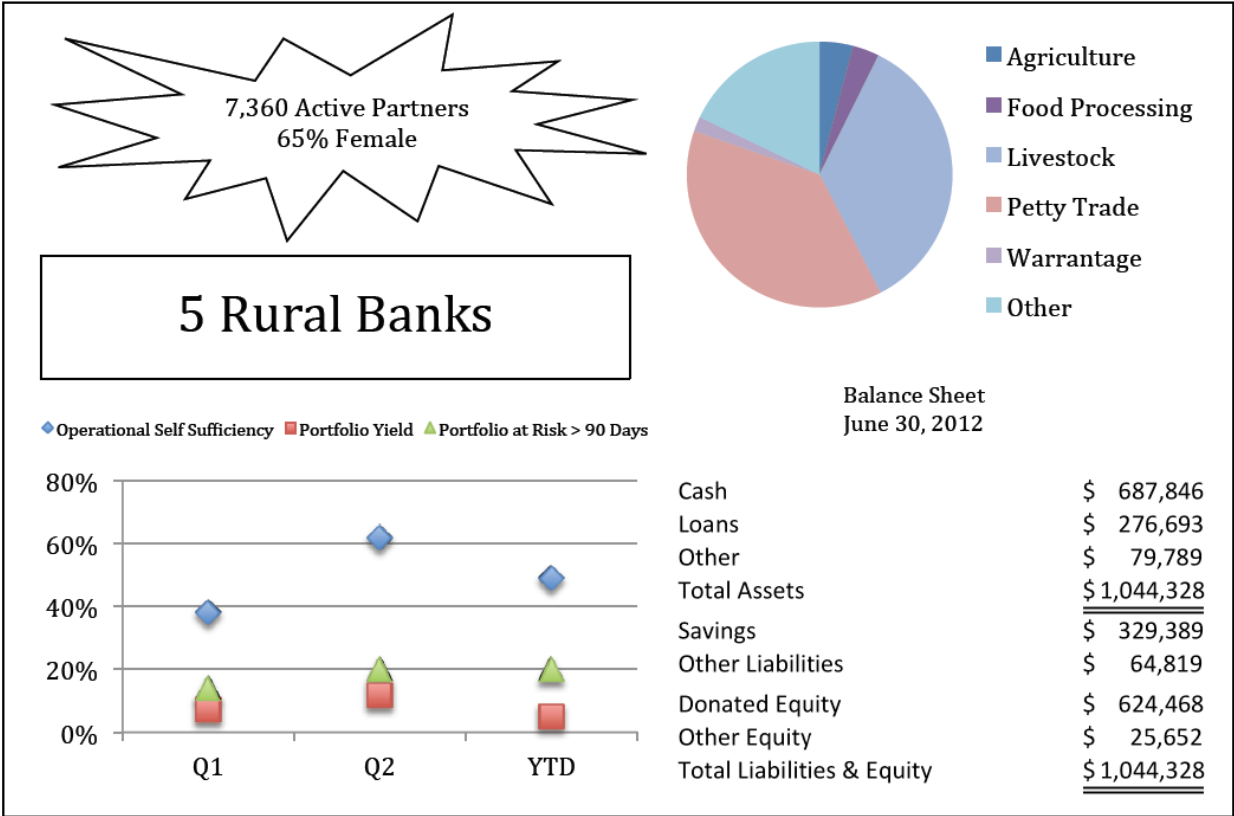


Average Learners of Functional Adult Literacy Classes



A clear decrease in number of participants can be seen from 2009 to now. This reduction in FAL workshops is a result of increased adult literacy opportunities now available to community partners through government agencies and other NGOs.

Microfinance Program Overview



Future Plans

Increased HIV/AIDS Awareness Workshops: Again capitalizing on its privileged relationship with the Ministry of Health, THP-Burkina will focus on spreading the HIV/AIDS message to partner populations. This awareness-raising message will be accompanied by consultations, testing and counseling opportunities, as well as workshops and trainings in HIV/AIDS awareness, proper treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS and modes of prevention.

Rural Bank Recognition: As already noted, THP-Burkina is supporting four of its MFPs in their application to achieve government recognition. The paperwork necessary to do so often takes many months to work through; the next reporting period will see this progress continue.

Formal Local Partnerships: THP-Burkina intends to pursue formal partnerships with local and technical partners alike. Townships, associations and other NGOs will be part of the networking process at both the epicenter and national levels.