



# **Advocacy Achievements in Disability and Inclusion:**

**Progress by Plan International Burkina Faso  
in its South-west region**

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# 1. Disability and inclusion in the education system in Burkina Faso

Negative social representation of disability leading to marginalization of children with disability.

Inclusive education relatively recent in the education system (2004).

Prevalence of disability in population is 1.1%  
Rural areas (139,787 people)  
Urban areas (41,169 people).

This prevalence of disability is 1.5% in our project area.

Only 54.5% of children with disability attend school, compared to 76% for other children in the same area.



## 2. A response from Plan International (from Ireland and Burkina Faso) Funded by Irish Aid, through the EQuIP project

**Education: Quality,  
Inclusive, Participatory  
(EQuIP)  
(lasting 2012-2016 &  
2017-2022).**

467 children with  
disability as project  
participants (among  
others)

### What we want

1. Equitable access to education for all children
2. Inclusive quality education for all
3. Meaningful participation of children and their communities
4. Inclusive education system, with change in policy and practice

### EQuIP main stakeholders

- Local technical departments of National Education
- Municipalities
- Health care centers & Social Action Departments
- Traditional leaders, local NGOs & DPO
- Children organisations (school governments)

# 3. Our Advocacy and Disability in Education approach



## 4. Achievements (1): Inclusion and education opportunities for CwD

Children with disability who were stigmatized and hidden in homes are increasingly visible and integrated into social life.



In 2016), 94.64% of students say the school provides an environment of gender equality. 57.14% of students (including 28.57% boys and 28.57% girls) believe that the school is truly inclusive. This rate is nil in the control schools

The number of children with disability regularly enrolled in schools (in the project area) has grown exceptionally from 17 children at the start of the project to 396 in 2016; Now 728 children with disability enrolled in 2022

As for the inclusive methodologies adopted by teachers, 100% of children with disability say that teaching methods are safe and friendly to them in 2022. This rate was 89% in the previous evaluation

EQuIP project has radically modified the social representation of children with disability, leading to a considerable valuation of these children by their parents and those around them.



# 5. Achievements (2) Social mobilisation and local political changes

Qualitative change in social mobilization around the issue of inclusive education.



The creation of communal commissions for inclusive education (chaired by the Mayors and bringing together those responsible for education, health, social action, the Community Based Rehabilitation Organisation, Disabled Persons Organisations, PTAs) in the 7 target municipalities

The participatory creation of a code of conduct for the a truly promotion of inclusion practices at school, with the overall local stakeholders in 137 primary schools

School statistics at regional level now include the situation of students with disability, whereas no information was previously available on these children.

The municipal authorities mobilised all the municipal council members to carry out, specially, a general census children with disability not attending school. This was without any financial support from the project: **an unprecedented example of commitment.**



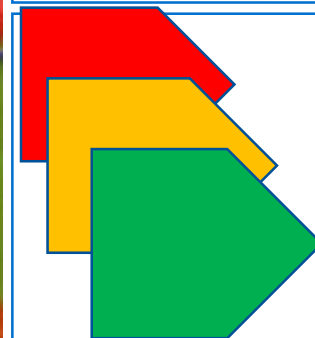
## 6. Lessons learned and perspectives



Disability care is not only about material and medical support. In low-income society, the change in behaviour of those around people with disability constitutes a strong basis for changing policies.



The activities carried out successfully and in an inclusive manner with young people with disabilities, show their strong willingness to quickly play their roles in society intellectually, culturally and emotionally.



Another project with the same actors in this project area will consolidate the results of the current EQuIP project, at a higher educational level of the participants. We want now to strengthen more elaborated advocacy at the national level.



**THANK  
YOU**