

FAWCO TARGET PROGRAM 2016 - 2019

Education: Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills.



Shortlisted Target Project Proposal

Beogo Neere, a project of the TuaRes Foundation

Highlights:

Who: Girls and their mothers in the Yagma slums of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

What and How:

- 80 girls will be provided access to quality education and wrap around support services to ensure success in school.
- Mothers will be trained in profitable income generating activities (IGAs), basic literacy, marketing and micro-finance.
- The local community will be engaged to promote girls education and project sustainability.

Budget: \$124,600

100% of funds will be invested in direct services: educational support; IT training; employment skills; health and life skills. Further details are provided below.

The Organization

Established in 2012, the TuaRes Foundation's mission is to promote the education of girls and young women in Africa. It is driven by the conviction that "...educating girls is the single most effective strategy to ensure the well-being of families and the long-term success of developing countries." The Foundation works to provide girls from low-income families, orphans and victims of abuse with adequate means, both social and financial, to graduate with good grades and the tools and knowledge to attain economic self-sufficiency. So far, it has helped 6,180 girls (including those whose schooling is being sponsored during the 2016-17 academic year):



The TuaRes Foundation is currently working in Burkina Faso, a country of 19 million people in western Africa that is among the poorest in the world. In 2015 it ranked 183 out of 188 countries and territories on the United Nations Human Development Index. The Foundation's efforts there are focused on girls from the slums of Ouagadougou (the capital city) and from the impoverished rural area surrounding Boulsa (Namentenga region).

Through its base programs TuaRes provides girls with the necessary tools to be able to attend and complete school. These include material (e.g. food aid and hygienic kits), intellectual (e.g. additional classes), and psychological support (e.g. individual and group counselling on issues such as girls' rights and responsibilities, sexual health, hygiene and sanitation and disease prevention). As part of its advanced programs, TuaRes imparts them with personal and professional skills that will help them find employment upon graduation.

The Project

TuaRes requests FAWCO support for its Beogo Neere project in the Yagma slum. Access to quality education there is challenging because the few public schools it has are overcrowded, under-staffed, and under-equipped. Like their counterparts in nearby slums, girls in Yagma face additional obstacles. Many are orphans and there are high rates of physical and verbal abuse, domestic labor, forced labor, early marriage, and teen pregnancy. In addition, restrictive social norms mean that girls are not usually encouraged to go to school.

The aim of the two-year project is to, in a sustainable manner, increase graduation rates of the most vulnerable Yagma girls while teaching them key employability and life skills. All of the project specifics stem from needs identified in a feasibility study and are designed to help girls to stay in school, obtain a quality education, and earn good grades.

To that end, the Beogo Neere project will provide 80 girls with comprehensive support. The girls will: be well-nourished (receive at least one meal per day), improve their health (receive an initial medical screening, and gynecological and ophthalmological checks), overcome serious trauma as needed (through psychological counseling), learn skills that will increase their value on the job market (English, IT, entrepreneurship), and have engaged parents (through regular awareness-raising campaigns, and skills-training and microloans to help the mothers to generate their own incomes).

The TuaRes Foundation will use its own funds to cover administrative and personnel costs associated with the project, including salary, office space, and supplies for a psychosocial worker. This means that 100% of FAWCO funding would go to Beogo Neere's direct activities. It would cover tuition, uniforms, backpacks, other school supplies, food aid, health checks, and hygienic articles. It would also be used to provide equipment necessary for success such as solar lamps and bicycles for girls who live far from their schools. Finally, it would finance trainings for the girls in life and employment skills, for their teachers on issues to be aware of and to build capacity, and for their mothers in income-generating activity.

Inclusion of the girls' mothers is intentional. They will also be given training in related skills of marketing, micro-finance, basic French, and numeracy. Then, through a group saving association, micro-credits, and diversified marketing channels, it is expected that they will become self-sufficient. They will have the means and desire to invest in the education of all their daughters and to encourage others to do the same. Once the community has been empowered economically and inspired mentally to the point of being able to both promote and self-assure/guarantee their girls' education, TuaRes will commence its gradual phase-out. Throughout the project, TuaRes will engage participants in a bottom-up, participatory manner, promote local ownership and strive to overcome "dependency traps" whenever they surface.

The TuaRes Foundation takes its name from the Latin phrase "Tua res agitur", or "it is your cause," and undergirding its promotion of education is a larger goal of girls and young women being able to take responsibility for their own lives. Accordingly, and in light of the extensive needs of girls in Yagma witnessed during the feasibility study, the Foundation has included as many participants as possible while planning quality, in-depth activities designed to equip the girls (and their mothers) for personal success and to become change-makers in their community.

You are invited to learn more about the organization by visiting their website, www.tuares.org/en. Please be aware the Beogo Neere project is not presented on their website as this is a project specifically designed for FAWCO. You may request a copy of the application by contacting Tricia R. Saur, Target Chair at target@fawco.org.