

BWEF representative, Christine Gnomou's visit to Bobo-Dioulasso

December 2020



Christine, in the white and blue dress, with BWEF beneficiaries in Bobo-Dioulasso

December 9

I travelled to the cotton growing village of Noumoudara in western Burkina Faso. It's located 26 kilometres southwest of Bobo-Dioulasso. I flew to Bobo rather than make the six-hour drive -- it is no longer safe to travel by road because of the terrorist threat in the country.

In Noumoudara, I interviewed a candidate for financial assistance from BWEF. Djouma is a 25-year-old single woman, with no children, who has registered to study natural sciences at Nazi Boni University in Bobo-Dioulasso, after obtaining the baccalaureate in 2020.

Her father, who works in the fields, is delighted that BWEF is interested in paying for his daughter's studies. If BWEF funds her studies, she would live in the city with a relative. I left the family the sack of rice, the cooking oil and soap for which her father thanked us profusely.



Djouma and her father

December 12

I met eight of our beneficiaries in Bobo, interviewing them separately at a group meeting. The young women updated me on their higher education courses. Almost all of them said that everything was proceeding normally or at least without major problems.



BWEF students in Bobo-Dioulasso

I found out to my surprise that Fatoumata has done extremely well despite joining the Catholic University of West Africa (l'Université Catholique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) three months into the 2019-2020 academic year. I was able to deliver the same amount of rice, oil and hand soap to each of them.

One of the girls, Emma, who is doing an internship in her final year at an institute in Gaoua, a three-hour drive from Bobo-Dioulasso, told me that she didn't have a computer that she needs to write her final thesis. I told her we were expecting a new shipment of used computers from the Rennes school district, and we hope to be able to give her one soon.



Fatoumata, with her supplies of rice, oil and soap



Emma, with her supplies of rice, oil and soap

Another student, Aicha, said that she was still waiting for her studies to resume. She's a first-year student in history and archaeology at Nazi Boni University. I noticed that one of her hands was bandaged. She said that she'd had an operation to remove cysts from that hand and that she'd need to have the same operation on the other hand. When I asked why she hadn't informed BWEF about her plight, I was sad to learn that she was afraid of losing her grant from us. We will reimburse her for both operations. As well as the food staples, I left her a reconditioned computer.



Aicha