



JOURNEY TO BURKINA FASO

■ CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

God created every plant, every mountaintop, every animal—everything. And God said that these things are good. We find God in these good things, and so we must take care of creation—for ourselves and for our entire human family.

ENCOUNTER SAFIATA

The dry and dusty climate of Burkina Faso means farming can be difficult. It means water can be hard to come by. And it means Safiata and her family often face hunger. Even though she had two plots of land to farm, the many months each year without rain made feeding her 9 children and 16 grandchildren a real challenge.

That's why Catholic Relief Services is providing farmers like Safiata with more land to grow crops—like onions—that thrive in dry climates. And thanks to a CRS-sponsored irrigation system, she knows she'll have access to water year-round. That means her crops will grow, and she'll be able to sell some at the market. "I pay school fees thanks to selling the vegetables. The vegetables help solve the problems my family faces," Safiata says.

Moreover, she can prepare for the future. Together with others, Safiata is putting a little of the income she earns from selling her crops at the market into a community savings pool. "If you face difficulties, the community will help you," she says. Those who contribute can borrow money from the fund for emergencies, school fees for their children, or to build businesses.



Photo by Michael Sturman/CRS

SHARE THE JOURNEY

A polluted river, poor soil, rising waters—these are some environmental reasons that force families to migrate. They remind us to care for creation.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Population: 18,931,686

Size: 105,869 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Colorado

- About 80 percent of workers rely on agriculture and livestock. Most are subsistence farmers, vulnerable to flooding and drought.
- CRS works with the government, churches and other community members in Burkina Faso to improve agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition, water and sanitation, and education.
- The CRS Helping Hands program provides an opportunity for Catholics in the United States to help the poor and vulnerable in Burkina Faso all year. Learn more at helpinghands.crs.org.



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch a video about Safiata at crsricebowl.org/stories.