

## Everyone deserves an education



Imagine going to a school without working toilets, or having to sit through lessons in 30°C heat without access to water, or knowing that the only water available to drink will make you sick. This was the reality for 17-year-old student Samiratou (pictured right) in Burkina Faso before HerWASH.

HerWASH is a four-year project in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone that combines age-appropriate menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) education with the construction and rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools, to advance the rights and health of students, especially girls and women.

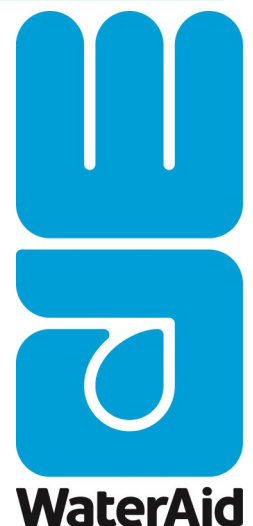
**In Burkina Faso, 39% of schools lack access to basic water services, and 48% of schools lack functioning toilets.** Without access to these basic services, attendance decreases and performance wanes — students are forced to miss class time to collect water, and menstruating students must leave school to manage their menstruation, with some dropping out entirely.

This is why HerWASH has focused on the construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools, ensuring they meet the needs of all students. This means that they are accessible, take into considering the MHH needs of students, and that hygiene education is provided to all students to ensure the proper use of the facilities.

Through HerWASH, construction work in Burkina Faso took place in 40 schools, and included the **complete rehabilitation of 10 water access points, the rehabilitation and construction of the latrine structures in all 40 schools, and the installation of 240 handwashing stations.** Students and teachers now have access to safe, reliable sources of water, alongside accessible and private toilets.



Before HerWASH, the borehole at Samiratou's school rarely worked, usually only supplying dirty water. To get water, she and her classmates had to leave school and collect it from within the community. After HerWASH, Samiratou shared that the fully rehabilitated borehole works very well: **"It helps us to get water quickly on site for all our needs. For us girls, when we're menstruating, we can easily get water to clean ourselves, care for our ourselves, and get back to class."**



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