

YOUTH



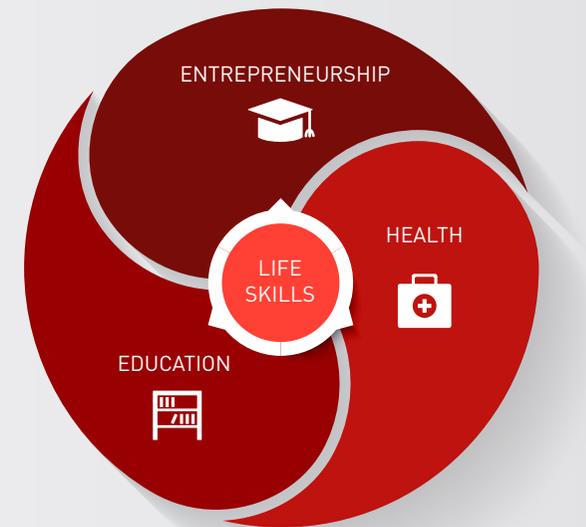
HOW WE
WORK WITH
THE **NEXT**
GENERATION

BØRNEfonden

Children & Youth Foundation

YOUTH – CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY?

Youth potentials and challenges are on top of BØRNEfonden's agenda. We want to raise awareness of the urgency of prioritizing youth and create opportunities for young people. We build on our solid experience from years of on-ground development work with young people in West Africa countries.



The largest youth generation

Today, we have the largest generation of young people the world has ever seen. Out of 1,8 billion young people, 85% live in developing countries, growth economies or fragile states.

Young people constitute 40% of the unemployed people worldwide.* 65% of the African population is under the age of 35. Adding to this, the rural youth remains largely unskilled and poorly educated. If we don't act, a whole generation may end up in unemployment – leading to problems such as poverty, irregular migration and radicalisation.

Agents of change

The African youth also constitutes an enormous resource and can – given the right possibilities – play an active role in creating positive societal change and development. BØRNEfonden wants to enable young women and men to become competent, skilled and employable agents of change through a holistic approach.

BØRNEfonden's youth approach

BØRNEfonden's youth approach is built on four pillars: Education, Entrepreneurship, Health and Life skills. Together with our partners, we strengthen

young people's access to relevant quality education, career skills development including the possibility of establishing own businesses and youth friendly health sessions with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Reinforcement of young people's life-skills is an integrated part of all our work with young people. The four pillars are integrated and make up a holistic approach.

Our youth effort is a natural extension of our overall development work with children. Our work starts at childbirth and continues until the young people have achieved an education.

*S4YE [Goldin, N & M Hobson with P. Glick, M. Lundberg, S. Puerto]. 2015. "Toward Solutions for Youth Employment: A Baseline for 2015." Solutions for Youth Employment, Washington D.C.

HEALTH

BØRNEfonden works with health-related issues in a variety of ways. At the core of our work is the empowerment of young people – making them the driving force for change.

OUR APPROACH

BØRNEfonden seek to improve Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services for young people and we provide education about SRHR to the young people in cooperation with local NGOs. Through support of youth clubs, we seek to strengthen adolescents as trustworthy actors in their communities and act as peer-educators with the abilities to inform and influence lawmakers, politicians or other local authorities. BØRNEfonden, in cooperation with local NGOs, provide assistance to health clinics and medical professionals – economically, educationally and by securing important medical equipment.



Young girls in Benin educate their peers about Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

The difference we make

One of BØRNEfonden's projects in Togo has focused on improving young people's SRHR and empowering them to promote SRHR through peer education and youth associations.

This resulted in the following:

- An increase of 17% in the use of Sexual Reproductive Health services by young people
- A decrease of HIV prevalence from 5.3% in 2012 to 3% in 2015
- A decrease of 68.75% in early pregnancies in 6 secondary schools
- Participation of more than 80,000 young people in the peer educators' activities

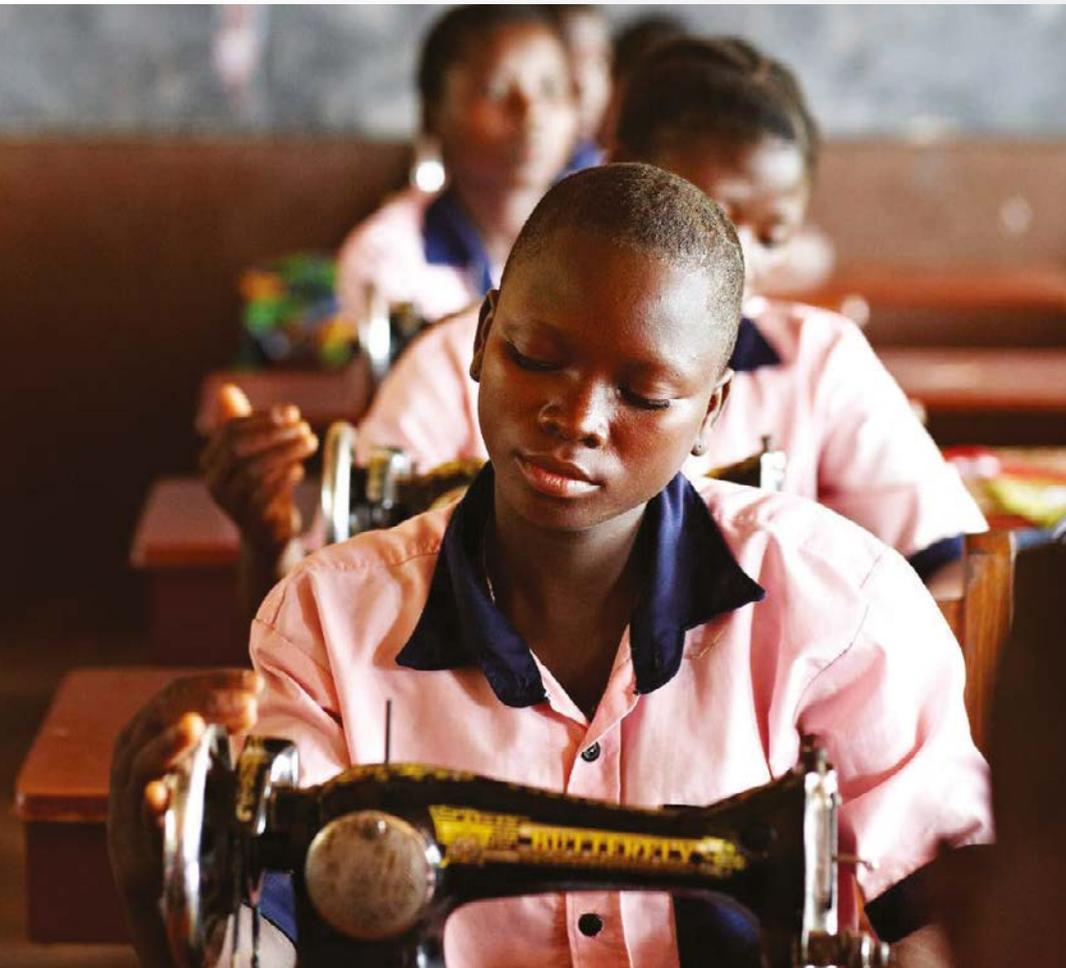
BØRNEfonden achieved this by empowering young people to reach out to other young people and local authorities by radio, meetings etc. in order to address health-related issues such as sexual violence, early marriage and early pregnancies.

These results show the positive effects that can be achieved with initiatives based on the core principles of BØRNEfonden's approach.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

BØRNEfonden seeks to empower young people both socially and economically.

One of the most important ways of doing this is to support, guide and educate young people to be able to create a sustainable income.



OUR APPROACH

BØRNEfonden strengthens and empowers young entrepreneurs through a holistic approach including:

- **Technical and vocational training**

We offer technical and vocational training, which teaches young people important skills in fields as diverse as sewing, agriculture and animal production. We maintain a focus on developing skills and techniques that are market viable – creating the best possible conditions for adolescents to generate their own income.

- **Business-training**

BØRNEfonden provides training in budgeting, market analysis and business planning which is essential for young people to get started as successful and independent entrepreneurs.

- **Funding**

BØRNEfonden assists young people in getting the proper funding – from both micro-financial institutions and government programs.

A better future for youth in Mali



Creating a constructive environment around entrepreneurship is the foundation for a lifetime of economic sustainability and opportunities. One of BØRNEfonden projects in Mali has aimed at preventing young people being forced to migrate by developing local opportunities to create an income, and actively contribute to the development of their communities.

The project resulted in the following:

- More than 350 young people have achieved formal degrees in vocational education
- 1277 young people have completed vocational training courses
- 10,954 young people in secondary schools, colleges and technical schools have received education in 'life skills'
- 1072 young people have been accompanied in self-employment or in strengthening their micro-enterprise

Due to the results of BØRNEfonden's project The Ministry of Education and Technical Training in Mali has agreed to introduce the module 'Life Skills' in school curriculums across Mali.

10,954

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How Dassiratou became successful

Dassiratou Bagagnan from Burkina Faso had trouble passing her exams in primary school. Fortunately, through a grant from BØRNEfonden she entered a three-year training course to learn sewing and designing. A grant from BØRNEfonden enabled her to purchase a sewing machine and sewing materials. Now, she creates an income for herself and her little boy, and she teaches other young girls and women to achieve the same thing.



EDUCATION

BØRNEfonden's work aims at closing the gap between education and employment through empowerment of young people as viable political, economic and social actors. We enable young people to become self-sufficient, active citizens in their communities.

OUR APPROACH

BØRNEfonden seeks to improve access to youth friendly quality education. In doing so, we focus on capacity building of teachers, school management and parents committees.

- **Schools and training**

Both through technical and vocational training and in secondary schools, we work with the education system to help youth gain a critical understanding of human rights, democracy and safe learning environments. This empowers young people to see themselves as valuable and impactful individuals capable of improving their local communities.

- **Teachers and parents**

We work to improve the learning environment by engaging parents and teachers and informing them about violence-free teaching methods. Parents committees are supported and parents are activated in campaigns against the negative consequences of school violence.

- **Support for school infrastructure**

BØRNEfonden is involved in the construction of school infrastructure such as vocational training centers and local schools in corporation with local authorities. Afterwards, BØRNEfonden hands over the maintenance to the local partners, thereby integrating the infrastructure fully into the local communities.

The number of secondary schools using corporal punishment has reduced by

52%



Reducing violence

In Togo, BØRNEfonden wanted to strengthen quality education through improved teaching methods and safe learning environments aimed at reducing violence against children and youth at schools and in apprenticeships.

This generated the following results:

- The number of secondary schools using corporal punishment has reduced by 52%
- The number of apprentices workshops using violence has reduced by 29,5%

- 72% of the 178 teachers who were in the project now use non-violent teaching methods
- At one of the schools, almost 25% more students pass their exams compared to before the project started
- Based on the project, Togo's Ministry of Education has now introduced non-violent teaching methods at all teacher training colleges throughout Togo

BØRNEfonden has achieved these results through several initiatives based on our involvement of all

relevant actors in the local communities. In all the 15 schools that were part of BØRNEfonden's project, teachers have been informed about violence-free teaching methods, and the students have formed youth groups. The young people have received information about their rights and acquired knowledge, which they now use to inform other young people, teachers and parents about the wrong practice of violence against children. The parents have also supported the project by organizing meetings in order tell other parents and leaders about the negative consequences of violence.



Committed to the Sustainable Development Goals

BØRNEfonden contributes to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



About BØRNEfonden

Established in 1972, BØRNEfonden works to enable a sustainable future for children, youth, families and communities in rural areas in West Africa. We work in five countries; Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali, Togo and Cape Verde. Collaboration and partnerships are key in BØRNEfonden's work to establish lasting change at community level. In cooperation with authorities, organisations and local communities we work for 15-20 years in each community to create resilient and empowered children and youth. When we leave a region, sustainable and lasting improvements and strong civil society structures must be established.

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