



## **IMPACT OF THE AFLATEEN+ LIFE SKILLS AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND BOYS IN BURKINA FASO**

APRIL 2021

*This factsheet provides a summarised overview of the impact evaluation report of Aflatoun's Life Skills and Financial Education programme 'Aflateen+' on adolescent girls and boys in Burkina Faso. Answering the main question: Has the Aflateen+ programme been effective in enhancing social, financial and entrepreneurial life skills, knowledge and attitudes of adolescent girls and boys in Burkina Faso?*

## **ABOUT THE AFLATEEN+ PROGRAMME**

Aflateen+ is an educational programme developed by Aflatoun International to transform the lives of girls and boys aged 12-19 through life skills, financial education, and entrepreneurship with a gender lens, provided through student centred learning methods.

It is crucial that adolescents understand money, resources and the markets that increasingly affect them, as they become consumers, workers and active citizens. This greatly improves their prospects for the future, as it prepares young people for a complex and turbulent job market. Through Aflateen+ class and club activities adolescents explore social concepts as identity, community norms, socio-economic status and religion, but also build financial capabilities to make sound choices and decision-making. Throughout the lessons, the connection between gender equality and economic prosperity is emphasised.

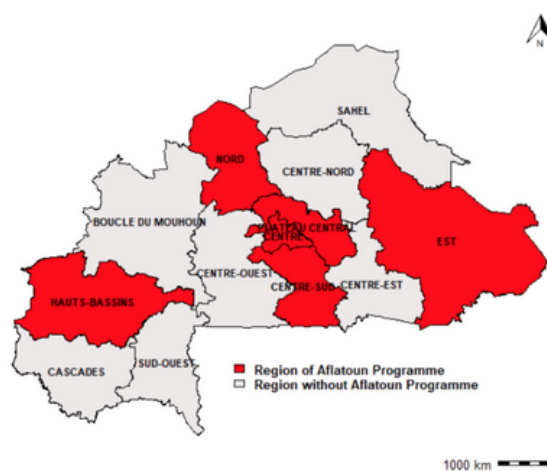
In Burkina Faso, Aflatoun International cooperates with CCEB (Cadre de Concertation des ONG et Associations Actives en Education de Base) for the delivery of Aflateen+. CCEB is a national network of 165 NGOs working in the field of formal and non-formal education in Burkina Faso. The project and research was funded by St. Antonius.

## **BURKINA FASO CONTEXT**

Burkina Faso, like many Sub-Saharan countries, has a large young population. Up to 64% of the total population is below the age of 25, with a median age of 18 years.(1) The development of the country remains marked by considerably low literacy rates of 50% for males and 33% for females.(2) In addition, 46% of all lower secondary school age youth was out of school in 2019.(3)

Burkina Faso faces many development challenges, particularly in terms of health and education. It ranks 144th among 157 countries in the new human capital index established by the World Bank and 40% of the population lives below the national poverty line. Furthermore, insecurity linked to frequent terrorist attacks since 2016 has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

Prevalent issues that continue to hamper development include human rights violations, gender disparities, low sexual and reproductive health, and the effect of family planning on education completion. In order to foster sustainable development for the younger generation, rethinking the education system is hence necessary. Life Skills and Financial Education can help tackling the before mentioned issues. Therefore, the Aflateen+ programme has been implemented in Burkina Faso with the aim to transform the lives of adolescent girls and boys through its student-centred learning methods.



[1]. [https://www.indexmundi.com/burkina\\_faso/demographics\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/burkina_faso/demographics_profile.html);

[2]. <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/bf>;

[3]. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.UNER.LO.ZS?locations=BF>



## PROGRAMME & EVALUATION DESIGN

### MODE OF DELIVERY

- Voluntary participation of adolescents in Aflateen+ clubs in non-formal centres.

### TIMELINE

- 48 sessions of 1 to 2 hours each, spread over 10 months;
- Baseline survey: 2nd quarter 2019;
- Endline survey: 1st quarter 2020.

### SAMPLE POPULATION

- 1.277 students – 34 non-formals groups;
- 871 students – 23 treatment schools;
- 406 students – 11 control schools.

### LOCATION

- Rural participants (45%);
- Urban participants (55%).

### AGE

- < 15 years (36%)
- 15 – 20 years (43%)
- > 20 years (21%)

### GENDER

- Female (63%);
- Male (37%).

### EVALUATION METHOD

Random Control Trial;

- Quantitative assessment: Student survey;
- Qualitative assessment: Focus group discussions.



## AFLATEEN+ CORE ELEMENTS & OUTCOME INDICATORS

The core elements of the Aflateen+ programme and the corresponding outcome areas are:

### SOCIAL

#### Personal understanding and exploration:

- Self efficacy.

#### Rights and responsibilities

- Critical thinking about gender roles;
- Knowledge of human rights and responsibilities;
- Attitudes towards gender and sexual based violence.

#### My body, my choices

- Sexual and reproductive health knowledge;
- Healthy decision making in personal relations.

### FINANCIAL

#### Saving and spending

- Savings behaviour;
- Spending behaviour;
- Financial knowledge.

### ENTREPRENEURIAL

#### My enterprise:

- Entrepreneurial attitudes;
- Entrepreneurial behaviour.

**FINDINGS**

The key findings from the impact assessment have been reported across various key areas namely; (1) personal understanding and exploration; (2) rights and responsibilities; (3) body and choices; (4) saving and spending; (5) entrepreneurship.

Overall, the impact assessment found evidence that the Aflateen+ programme has had a positive effect on seven indicators including knowledge of rights and responsibilities, critical thinking about gender roles, decision making in personal relationships, financial knowledge, saving & spending behaviour, and entrepreneurial attitudes. The assessment shows no observable effect (yet) on four indicators within the areas of personal understanding and exploration, body and choices and entrepreneurship.

**SOCIAL OUTCOMES**



**Aflateen+ has improved participants':**

- Critical thinking about gender roles;
- Knowledge about human rights and responsibilities;
- Healthy decision making in personal relations.

**Aflateen+ did not have an observable impact yet on:**

- Self-efficacy;
- Gender and sexual based violence;
- Sexual and reproductive health knowledge (boys and urban participants only).

**FINANCIAL OUTCOMES**



**Aflateen+ has improved participants':**

- Financial knowledge;
- Saving behaviour;
- Spending behavior.

*The Aflateen+ programme proved to be successful in Burkina Faso improving the overall financial knowledge and behavior of its participants.*

**ENTREPRENEURIAL OUTCOMES**



**Aflateen+ has improved participants':**

- Entrepreneurial attitude.

**Aflateen+ did not have an observable impact yet on:**

- Entrepreneurial behaviour.

*When looking at gender, geographical location and age the research shows other insightful findings:*



Aflateen+ has had the largest effect on students between the age of 15-20 years, compared to students of the age <15 and >20 years.

**GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

Looking at rural students only the results show that the programme has positively improved their sexual and reproductive health knowledge.

In rural areas a larger impact on students is found compared to urban areas in regards to critical thinking about gender roles, knowledge of human rights and responsibilities, healthy decision making in personal relations, spending behaviour, and entrepreneurial attitudes.

**GENDER**

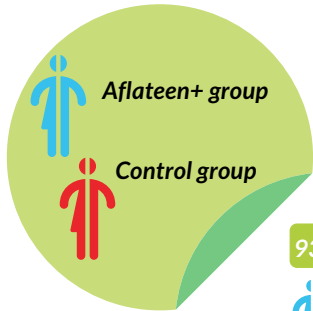
Looking at girls only the results show that the programme has positively improved girls' sexual and reproductive health knowledge.

Girls also benefited more from the programme in terms of savings behaviour and Entrepreneurial attitudes. Boys benefited more from the programme in terms of financial knowledge.

*\*Interestingly for girls and rural students only the research shows a positive impact on sexual reproductive health knowledge, whilst for the full sample (girls and boys and rural and urban combined) such an impact is not observed.*

**IMPACT ON STUDENTS**

Key figures of student impact of the Aflateen+ and control group are provided below. All figures are statistically significant.



**SOCIAL OUTCOMES**



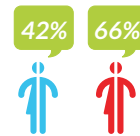
**Knowledge about human rights and responsibilities**

% of students who agree that people should have the same rights regardless of sex or ethnicity



**Healthy decision making in personal relationships**

% of students who agree that every girl and boy has the right to insist on the use of a condom



**Critical thinking about gender roles**

% of students who agree that boys are better leaders than girls



**Sexual reproductive health knowledge**

% of girls who agree that mosquitoes can transmit HIV/AIDS from one person to another



**Sexual reproductive health knowledge**

% of rural students who agree that mosquitoes can transmit HIV/AIDS from one person to another

**FINANCIAL & ENTREPRENEURIAL**



**Savings behaviour**

% of students who save money



**Spending behaviour**

% of students who keep track of their expenditures



**Financial knowledge**

% of students who understand what interest rates are



**Entrepreneurial attitudes**

% of students who believe to have the capabilities to manage their own enterprise

## LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Based on the research results the Aflateen+ *Life Skills and Financial Education* programme has a positive impact on students' skills in Burkina Faso. This includes: critical thinking about gender roles, student's knowledge about human rights and responsibilities, healthy decision making in personal relationships, financial knowledge, saving & spending behaviour and entrepreneurial attitudes.



The positive results in the skill areas suggest exploring the extension and scaling of the programme elsewhere in Burkina Faso.



Further research is needed in areas where the Aflateen+ programme did not have an observable impact yet. This includes self-efficacy, knowledge about gender and sexual based violence and sexual and reproductive health and entrepreneurial behaviour.



**[Interested to read the entire report? Click here.](#)**

## STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES ON THE AFLATEEN+ PROGRAMME

Generally, students that were interested in joining the Aflateen+ club did so voluntarily. They believe that through the club, they can learn many other social skills, leadership skills and mature faster. Participants mentioned during the focus group discussions what they learned by attending the Aflateen+ club:

"Then, we did not know that a **boy and a girl have the same rights**. Now, with Aflatoun's training, we realised that both must be **successful at school without any discrimination.**"

- (CEPS Houndé; Hope Center)

"We learned (with mentors' advices through Aflatoun's Club) to **save money in banks, mobilemoney**; because from savings, we can **develop some projects.**"

- (ANPE Paglayiri; ADPO Rimkieta)

"Aflatoun taught us **two types of spending** such as the desire and necessity ones. This considerably **reduced our spending.**"

- (ANPE Paglayiri; ADPO Rimkieta)

"Thanks to the training, we learned that it is **necessary to do family planning and use of contraceptive methods** such as condoms, pills."

- (CEPS Houndé)

"For society to function well, we have understood that **men and women must actively participate on the equal rights basis: inequality of right between men and women is forbidden.**"

- (Tin-Tua-Piela; CEPS Houndé; Hayatoul Islam)