Building Youth Capacities in Burkina Faso: A tripartite collaboration between Government, an NGO and a Mining Company

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The project Developing Youth Capacities in Burkina Faso brings together all stakeholders in a project that focuses on one of the key issues facing most African countries today – that of youth employment.

The project is implemented by the NGO Plan Burkina Faso, in close collaboration with the relevant ministries and stakeholders in Technical and Vocational Training. It is funded by the Canadian Government and Canadian mining company IAMGOLD. The close involvement of local government stakeholders anchors the project in the existing context and framework. Coordination by an education NGO ensures an approach encouraging local capacity building and the active involvement of a mining company offers a unique opportunity for young people to see where their training could lead. The project has also instigated the setting up of a mining sector CSR Forum to support the uptake of CSR approaches by other sector stakeholders.

Sarah Mackenzie has worked in the development sector for several years, collaborating with NGOs that focus on water and sanitation, local development and decentralisation in West and Central Africa. Sarah has been based in Burkina Faso for the past five years, and in 2011 began collaborating with mineral exploration companies as the country’s gold mining sector boomed. She has worked with NGOs and exploration and mining companies to help build good community relations and develop community investment approaches in Liberia, Burkina Faso, Niger and more recently, Botswana.