

Impact Assessment Report

United Arrows - 2018 Collections

Key Statistics

Meters of fabric
produced:
1563

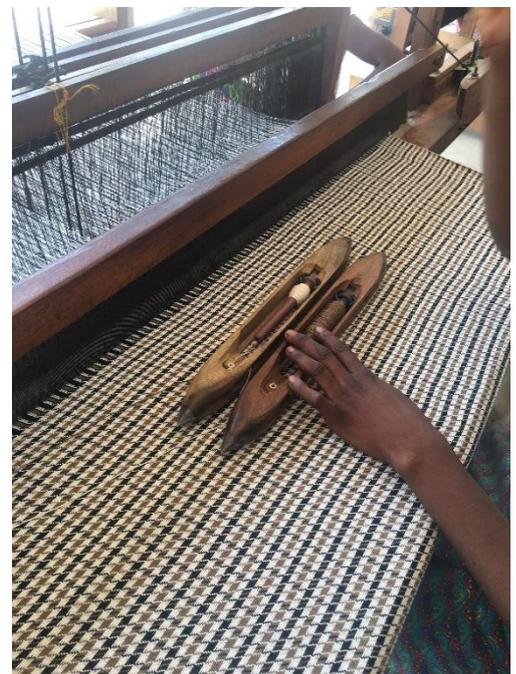
88%
women

4 artisan groups in
Burkina Faso (see
detailed presentation sheets
at the end of the report)

Total number of
artisans:
27



Mrs. Evelynne Ouédraogo of the atelier AZPF Ouagadougou preparing a creel



Large width looms at AFEPO

Fact File

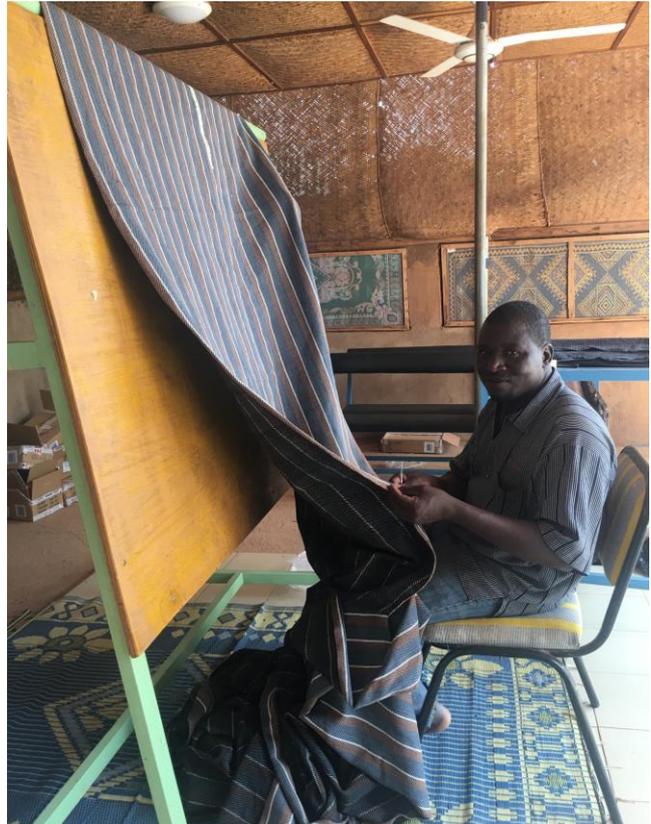
- In total, 3 artisans working for the “Coopérative Faso Textile” (COFATEX), 12 artisans working for the “Association des Femmes Tisseuses de Ponsomtenga” (AFEPO), 7 artisans working for the “Association Zoodo pour la Promotion de la Femme” (AZPF) and 5 artisans working for INOVATEX participated in the production of the order.
- Each artisan produced on average meters of fabric 57.84 meters of fabric.

Skills used

- Winding
- Warping
- Weaving on small width looms
- Weaving on large width looms
- Dyeing

Long-term impact

- The recurrent orders of United Arrows (with the creation of TEGE) contributed to the steady growth and development of CABES social enterprise and its member ateliers as the regular flow of orders allowed CABES to offer work to an increasing number of artisans, providing them with a steady income and enabling them to lift themselves out of poverty through work.
- For example, the Association of Women Weavers of Ponsomtenga, (AFEPO) grew from 18 members in 2013 to 54 members in 2018 and will continue involving more and more artisans, while AZPF Bilinga worked on its first wide width fabric order thanks to UA's 2018 orders.
- The steady orders of United Arrows also enabled continuous on the job training of the artisans for the production of these new fabrics. CABES, with the support of EFI and these orders, was also able to introduce new technologies to improve quality and productivity: for e.g. the artisans learned how to use the looms' warping beams to maintain adequate yarn tension while weaving, instead of attaching the warp to a stone that they were progressively dragging towards themselves.
- The field visits of United Arrows' creatives provided artisans with an amazing opportunity to learn about product development, international trends and requirements.



Mr. Thé Minadofini of CABES' quality control team performing the final quality control and minor fabric repairs



Fabric measurement at the beginning of production to ensure that the width and designs are as requested

Who made your clothes?



Christiane Zoungana, 45 years old

"The work provided allows me to support my family financially; I can pay my children's school fees, cover their medical expenses and buy clothes. I feel fulfilled when I go to work. Each order is a new challenge that contributes to my professional development and allows me to learn new skills".



Sarata Zangré, 20 years old

"I am a mother of two. During the production of the order, I was trained on how to use the pedals of the large width looms, which contributed to my professional development. I enjoy coming to work because I am respected and I consider my colleagues as mothers and sisters."



Zalissa Sawadogo, 20 years old

"I do not have any children, but I take care of my brother. The income I earned through the production of this order allowed me to cover his school fees and to buy him medicine. What I like most about my work is the team spirit that brings the artisans together".



Hortence Tuina, 40 years old

"My work gives me joy because it makes me feel valued. It also provides me with a stable income, which ensures my food safety and allows me to have a roof over my head. This order allowed me to improve my weaving skills on large width looms".

**Join the
Conversation...**

**#WhoMadeMyClothes
#NotCharityJustWork
#TradeNotAid**



The Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) is a flagship programme of the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. EFI reduces global poverty by linking micro-producers and artisans to the international supply chain of fashion, facilitating dignified work at a fair wage. By collaborating with social enterprises, the EFI supports local creativity, female employment and empowerment and gender equality. Ultimately, this aims to reduce extreme poverty and increase the export capacities of the region in which it operates.

EFI Compliance

This order was monitored using EFI Compliance scheme: An innovative system from the ITC's Ethical Fashion Initiative to enable compliance with labour and environmental regulations, traceability for all processes, and a clear measurement of the impact of work on those involved in the value chain.

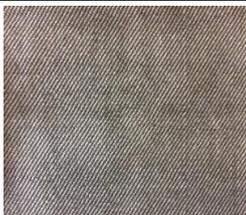


Discover the artisan groups working with EFI around the world, follow this [link](#).



GIE CABES consists of individual and collective enterprises of artisans in the textile sector in Burkina Faso and Mali. GIE CABES aims to promote artisanal and traditional textiles and create a reliable supply chain that meets international standards of quality, production deadlines and creativity. GIE CABES offers work opportunities for artisans in marginalized communities, especially women, to lift them out of poverty. To achieve its objectives, GIE CABES collaborates with the Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI). EFI enables GIE CABES to consolidate its expertise and resources by providing technical assistance and training as well as facilitating long-term business opportunities with fashion buyers.

Fig 1: Order Summary, Artisans/Community Groups and Skills

Style	Photo	Groups/artisans involved in production	# of artisans involved in the order	% of women	Main skills used in the order
AFPO CABES UATH SNC 393 BF		AFEPO : Julienne, Agathe, Cécile, Sabine, Brigitte, Florence, Eliane, Albertine, Korotimi AZPF : Zalissa	10	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
INOV CABES UATH TGC 374 VARIANT B BF		COFATEX : Hortence, Bibata, Sylvie AFEPO : Brigitte, Marceline	5	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
AFPO CABESUATH STNC 382 BF		AFEPO : Augustine, Blandine AZPF : Sarata, Habibou, Evelyne, Haoua, Christiane	7	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
AFPO CABES UATH GSC 407 BF		AFEPO : Marceline, Brigitte, Marceline	3	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
COFATCABE S CH 427 BF		INOVATEX : Elie, Jean, Ahmed, Aminata, Goho	5	40% (2 women)	Winding, warping, weaving
AFPO CABES SERGE 27		AFEPO : Brigitte, Marceline	2	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
COFATCABE S Try 201 BF		COFATEX : Hortence, Bibata, Sylvie	3	100%	COFATEX

AZ CABES C 55 BF		AZPF : Rakieta	1	100%	Weaving
AZ CABES Try 05 BF		AZPF : Rakieta	1	100%	Weaving
AFPO CABES C 242 BF		AFEPO : Cécile, Sabine	2	100 %	Weaving

GIE CABES - Ouagadougou



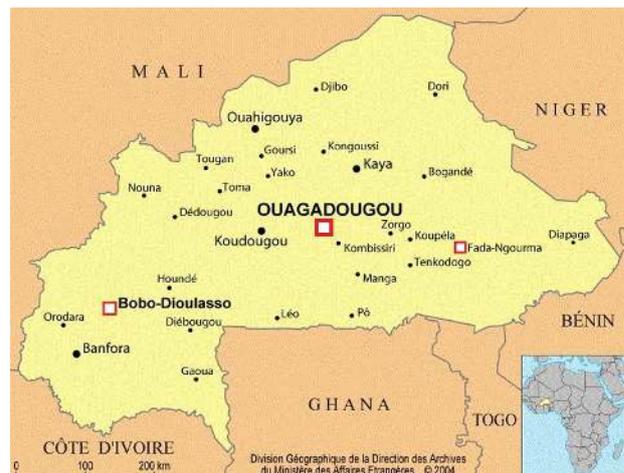
EFI COMPLIANCE*

CABES Social Enterprise
Ouagadougou

EFI Code of Conduct principles	Compliance in 2018
1 No forced labour	87%
2 Right to freedom of association and collective bargaining	81%
3 No harassment, abuse or discrimination	78%
4 No underage labour	100%
5 Reasonable hours of work	86%
6 Payment of a living wage	100%
7 Safe and healthy working conditions	89%
8 Women's rights guaranteed	96%
9 Minimized impact on the environment	76%
10 Respect for community values	100%

Key facts

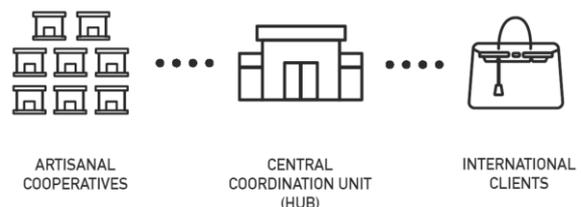
- **Year of creation:** 2016
- **Number of members:** 475 artisans
9 founding ateliers and cooperatives
- **Location:** HQ in Ouagadougou. Hubs in Bobo-Dioulasso, Pissy, Fada N'Gourma
- **Activities:** Production and promotion of traditional handwoven and decorated cotton textiles from Burkina Faso and Mali produced by disadvantaged artisans.



CABES is a **social enterprise**, which was created with the support of the **Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI)** to promote the work of marginalized artisans of Burkina Faso and Mali producing handwoven and decorated cotton textiles on international markets. CABES stands for "*Commerce et Artisanat pour le Bien Etre Social*", which means "*Trade and crafts for social well-being*".

CABES is composed of artisan groups ("ateliers", cooperatives, associations) working along the whole handwoven textile value chain, from cotton ginning to finished fabrics. Through CABES, these artisans become suppliers of international fashion and lifestyle brands and this contributes to poverty reduction and to the empowerment of artisan communities.

CABES acts as a central coordination unit ("hub") and is responsible for engaging with the market and international clients whilst also managing all aspects of production: product development, the purchase of materials, trainings, the organisation of production, quality control, packaging, administrative procedures, shipping and payments, etc.



CABES' activities are organised around three hubs in Ouagadougou, Bobo Dioulasso and Fada N'Gourma to ensure a good geographic coverage and provide reliable and qualitative supports to the ateliers. CABES is also responsible for directly managing a yarn preparation centre in Ouagadougou, the Pissy II centre, which benefits all the ateliers part of CABES' network by semi automatizing a few preparation steps that are very time consuming and hard physically: the bobbin preparation and the positioning of the yarn on warping beams.



Pissy II centre is equipped with small industrial machinery

CABES team is made of professionals of the sector and new recruits come from textile and engineering schools of Burkina Faso and Mali. New recruits go through a specific training programme designed with the help of international experts, which then enables them to work hand in hand with ateliers at the artisan level while incorporating methodologies and best practices of the industrialized sector.

Apart from production coordination, quality control and product development and, as part of EFI's core project activities, are involved to deliver managerial and technical trainings to ateliers. Trainings enable quality and productivity improvements and, most importantly, enable the inclusion of more and more artisans in the production chain.



Final quality control performed by The Minadofini



Fabric development for EDUN – the technical team trains artisans on understanding and using technical sheets.

CABES' ateliers produce two types of fabrics:



Faso Danfani, beautiful handwoven patterned textiles

Doing so, CABES is contributing to the creation of a reliable supply chain meeting international standards, which will serve the long-term interest of artisans in Burkina Faso as ateliers will have a reliable commercial entity to carry on commercial activities long after the end of the EFI project.

*These scores were calculated using EFI's compliance monitoring tool, which assesses EFI's partners' compliance with the various standards of EFI's code of conduct. When a partner does not get 100% for one of the principles, a corrective actions plan is defined in collaboration with its head(s) to help it reach full compliance. The implementation of this corrective actions plan is then monitored and regularly evaluated.

The aim is to motivate partners to progressively reach full compliance with the code of conduct, by making them understand all the benefits associated with doing so and not to punish them if they are not compliant on day one. EFI works with its partners, hand in hand, to improve working conditions and raise workers' living standards in the long term.

AFEPO - Ponsomtenga



Key facts

- Year of creation: 2007
- CABES member: Since 2016
- Number of members: 54
- Percentage of women: 100%
- Location: Ponsomtenga, Burkina Faso
- Activities: Dyeing, Faso Danfani weaving

The Association of Women Weavers of Ponsomtenga, “Association des Femmes Tisseuses de Ponsomtenga – AFEPO” (in French), is **an association that aims to contribute to poverty, unemployment and social marginalization reduction** by promoting Faso Dan Fani weaving and by contributing to the development of a recognized social status for artisan weavers.

AFEPO currently has 54 members, all of which are women. Many of them already practiced weaving and dyeing before joining AFEPO, but they were doing so in basic and sometimes dangerous conditions. By joining the association, artisans get access to a decent work environment, training possibilities and a space where they can gather and express themselves. They can formalize their activities and stabilize their income; this allows them to have decent living standards and to pay for their children’s education.



AFEPO is located in the village of Ponsomtenga, 25 km south of Ouagadougou. Despite its proximity to the capital, infrastructure in the village is very basic. Most houses have no electricity, no running water and living conditions are precarious. Agriculture is the villagers’ main livelihood and most weavers have to take part in subsistence farming activities. This was the case of the weavers working for AFEPO before they joined the association. Now, thanks to the regular weaving work provided by AFEPO, they have enough income to hire workers to work in their fields in their place. The association therefore also contributes to creating jobs indirectly within the weavers’ communities. Families in the village consist on average of 7 members so the activities of the centre benefit approximately 378 people.

In 2013, when EFI started working with AFEPO, it only had 18 members. With the support of EFI and other development actors, the association developed steadily over the years to reach 54 artisans in 2018. The association will welcome more artisans with the support of EFI's project, which provides training, equipment and most importantly market access support. The involvement of EFI has also enabled AFEPO to attract other actors (NGOs, development agencies) who supported the development of the association in other areas such as literacy by providing basic occupational literacy trainings.

The atelier is very well organised with different areas specifically dedicated to certain activities: one for wide looms, one for small looms, one for trainees, one for yarn preparation, a closed building for stocks and the showroom and a cooking area as well as a well.



EFI's project supported the construction of new work areas

Artisans joining AFEPO usually learn weaving on small looms and then progressively learn how to weave more intricate and wider fabrics on looms with four pedals that can make fabrics 50 m long and 1.5 m wide!



Most artisans did not have the opportunity to complete their primary education but they can weave intricate fabric designs.

Weaving large width fabrics is physically demanding. This is why EFI supported AFEPO in getting high quality looms and organising the weavers to work in teams: when one artisan is weaving, the other is preparing the shuttles. This improves the quality of the final product, increases productivity and ensures that there are no delays in production, especially when social events such as weddings or funerals occupy artisans for weeks!



A team of artisans: one is weaving on a wide loom while the other is putting yarn on bobbins.

Most artisans working for AFEPO on the orders brought by EFI have made very positive changes in their lives through their work. For instance, Joséphine Nikiema was in a precarious situation before joining AFEPO. A widow and mother of three, she was trying hard to provide for her family, collecting wood and pebbles to sell them. Now aged 38, she can finally breathe: *"before it was difficult, but now it's really okay. I earn money to send my kids to school, to provide food for them and to take care of their health. I am a widow; I am both the man and the woman of the house. Thanks to the work provided by AFEPO, everything is much better"*.



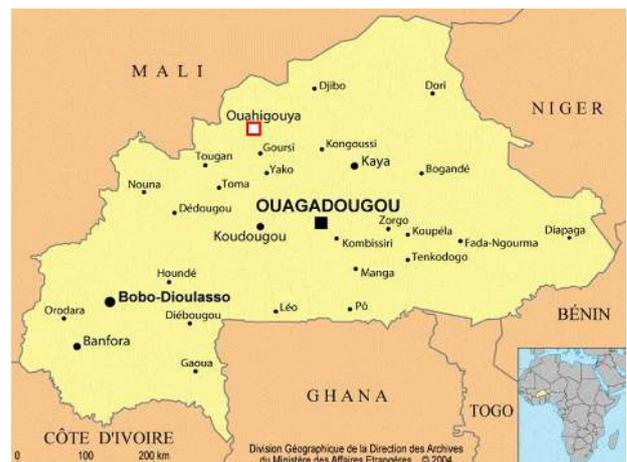
Joséphine cutting a beautiful fabric design that she finished weaving

AZPF - Bilinga



Key facts

- Year of creation: November 2015
- Number of members: 31
- Percentage of women: 100%
- Location: Bilinga
- Activities: Cotton spinning, natural dyeing, weaving on vertical, small and wide horizontal looms



The **Association for Zoodo Women Promotion (AZPF)** was created in 1996 under the initiative of Mrs. Mariam Maïga to contribute effectively to the promotion of rural communities and women in Burkina Faso.



Artisan working on a wide loom

Bilinga is a small village in the region of Yatenga (north of Burkina Faso – just south of the big city Ouahigouya – see red square on the map) and is part of AZPF's network. It is located in the countryside, where there is no electricity and no running water. Agriculture is the villagers' main livelihood: they grow grains (sesame, groundnuts, niébé, mil), rice and vegetables. In this region, the soil is not very fertile and living conditions are precarious.

The opening of AZPF's centre was therefore welcomed by villagers as activities related to hand-weaving can provide an alternative and reliable source of income for families. Families in the village consist on average of 7 members so the activities of the centre benefit approximately 217 people. An increasing number of women want to join the association and learn new skills.

Before the opening of the weaving centre, AZPF already provided learning support for children, basic literacy lessons for adults (as the school was only opened 20 years ago in the village), contributed to the opening of the secondary school and hired a traveling nurse to go around villages. In 2018, the association managed to raise funds to drill a new well that benefited the whole village!



There are two covered work areas and a small house for storage/lessons in the atelier

AZPF Bilinga is one of CABES GIE's suppliers, the social enterprise supported by the project. Several artisans have already benefited from technical trainings on weaving and natural dyeing. The artisans of the centre will receive further training on weaving, dyeing and cotton spinning as well as equipment to ensure safe and adequate working conditions.



The process of cotton spinning is currently done by hand, using small "quenouilles", little pieces of wood used to spin the yarn. EFI is introducing spinning wheels to facilitate the work of the artisans.



The women artisans of AZPF Bilinga are specialized in natural dyes



Artisans combing the cotton (initial stage of spinning)

COFATEX – Bobo Dioulasso



Key facts

- **Year of creation:** 2012
- **Number of members:** 16 artisans
- **Percentage of women:** 95 %
- **Location:** Bobo-Dioulasso
- **Activities:** : Cotton spinning, natural dyeing, weaving on vertical, small and wide horizontal looms

COFATEX is a **cooperative** that was created in 2012 by a group of women to promote Burkina Faso's traditional fabrics and provide better living conditions to artisans. They wanted to support women in difficulty and give them a place to share ideas and discuss personal issues. COFATEX stands for "*Coopérative Faso Textile*".

Following its creation, COFATEX lost a large number of its workers. The cooperative was facing difficulties to sell the fabrics it was producing and it was therefore unable to provide better living conditions to their workers. Ms. Sakandé, COFATEX's current president, was one of the artisans working for the cooperative at that time. She earned only 1000 F CFA a month, but she believed in the project.

That is why, when the previous president left the cooperative in 2015, she decided to take over and, with the help of CABES, EFI's social enterprise in Burkina Faso, she was able to bring together dynamic artisans and resume COFATEX's activities. Despite her low income, she remained committed to COFATEX and shared her vision and ambition with the new artisans.



Artisans winding yarn onto bobbins

They resumed work with a small number of women, and a man joined them later. COFATEX currently employs 16 artisans, who together raised funds to build a new workplace in sector 25 in Bobo Dioulasso. Today, artisans joining COFATEX have access to better living conditions and a regular income that is crucial to the well-being of their family.

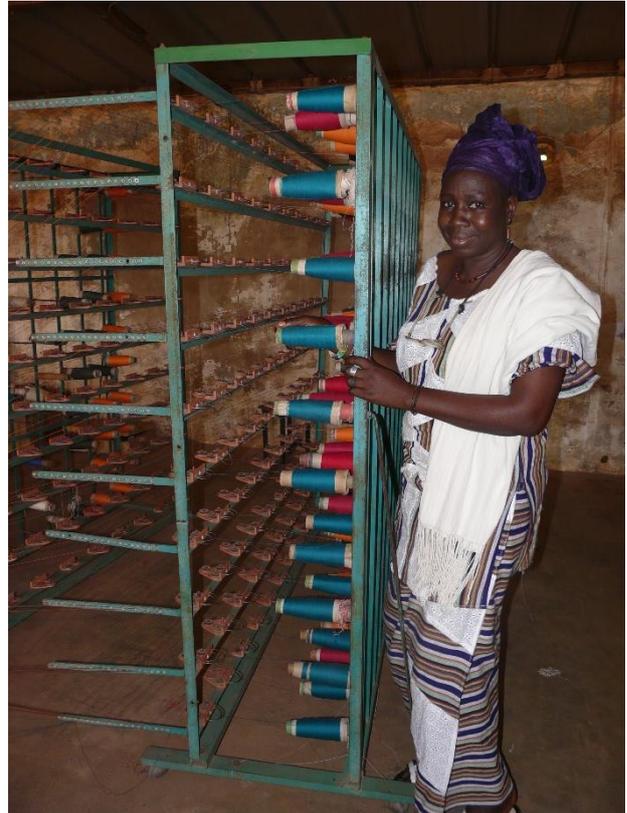


An artisan controlling the quality of a fabric and inspecting it for any defects

COFATEX is located in the eastern part of Bobo Dioulasso, the economic capital of Burkina Faso and the second largest city in terms of population.



In sector 25, where COFATEX has set up its new workshop, people still live as if they were living in a small village. Families are poor and do not have access to education (neighbouring schools are private and more expensive than public schools). The average number of people in a family is five, and they live in small houses. Sector 25 is an “artisanal zone” (“zone artisanale” in French), which means that mainly artisans live there.



An artisan proudly displaying the creels that carry the bobbins from which fabrics are weaved

Women do not usually have the opportunity to flourish in sector 25 but their involvement in COFATEX's work fills them with hope for their social inclusion and social and for their social mobility. Artisans who work for COFATEX can contribute to the well-being of their families, especially their children exposed to malaria and other types of tropical diseases.

COFATEX benefited from the support of Diakonika, a Swedish development organization, through the “Fond Commun Genre” and received two awards at the “International Handicrafts Fair of Ouagadougou (SIAO)”.

INOVATEX – Bobo Dioulasso



Key facts

- **Year of creation:** 2015
- **Number of members:** 8 artisans
- **Percentage of women:** 40 %
- **Location:** Bobo-Dioulasso
- **Activities:** Cotton spinning, weaving on small and wide horizontal looms

INOVATEX is a **self-help group** of young artisans created in 2015 to lower unemployment in Bobo-Dioulasso and to reduce the immigration of young Burkinabe to Ivory Coast by providing them with the prospect of a better future.

INOVATEX is composed of eight very dynamic artisans, including three women and five men. The self-help group brings together these young people who have very different backgrounds; some of them come from Bobo-Dioulasso, others from Réo or Dédougou, which is located 180 km from Bobo. They decided to come together to discuss their issues and develop income generating activities through the production of beautiful craft fabrics.



INOVATEX is located in Bobo-Dioulasso, the economic capital of Burkina Faso and the second largest city in the country in terms of population, in the Lafiabougou district. A popular neighbourhood in which mostly modest people live, the district is located approximately 15 km from Bobo-Dioulasso's centre.

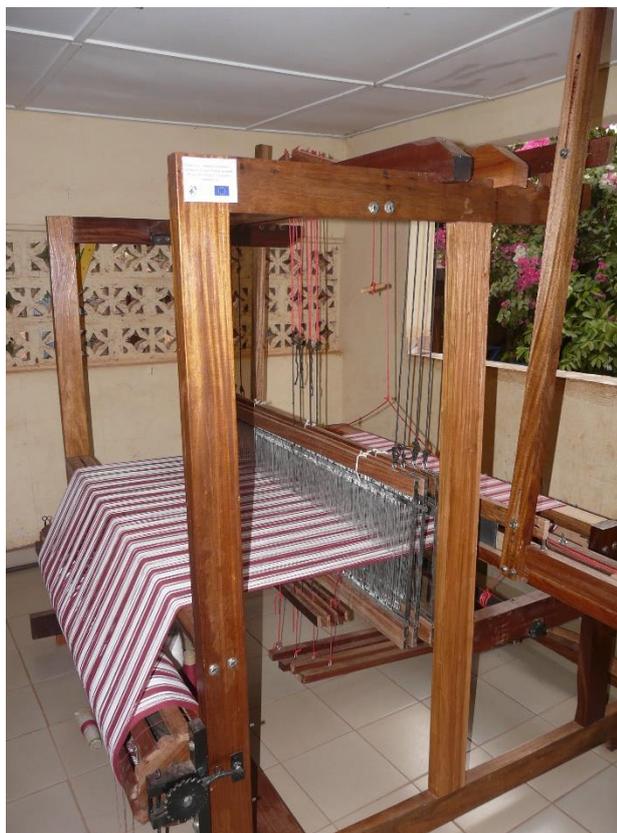
People in this neighbourhood live as if they were in a village. Families are poor and young people face employability problems. In this community, many youngsters between the age of 18 and 29 did not have the opportunity to go to school and would be prone to migrate to find better opportunities elsewhere.

INOVATEX represents for people of this age group a centre in which they can learn a profession and is for them a source of personal development, recognition and well-being.



INOVATEX has been equipped with wide horizontal looms with the support of EFI's project and funding by the European Union.

Young girls who in the past faced practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage find in INOVATEX a place of comfort, self-expression, a place where they feel valued.



A wide horizontal loom, similar to the ones used by artisans in the previous picture

Artisans who have joined INOVATEX no longer think of migration, as they have great belief in their involvement with the self-help group's project. They are currently witnessing the hope that their commitment to the craft of weaving fabrics has brought into their lives and they do not hesitate to encourage other young people in a precarious situation to join them on their journey.



The artisans of INOVATEX pose for a photo with Mr. Habou Paulin, the national expert hired by the project and a visitor.

INOVATEX is still a small workshop that cannot operate independently. It shares its office rental costs with CABES, EFI's social enterprise in Burkina Faso, and, with its support, it aims to grow further to reach more young people in Lafiabougou and empower more women.

Next steps: The project will further support INOVATEX through orders, trainings but also by assisting the weavers to formalise their self-help group.