



Burkina Faso has a significant youth population that faces bleak employment prospects. A majority of the country's population is under the age of 25. Yet among people aged 15 to 24, nearly half (45.6 percent) are neither formally employed nor enrolled in an education or training program. The percentages remain strikingly similar (45.7 percent) even for young adults up to 34 years old.

Opportunities appear most bleak for female youth and rural youth. Burkinabé women are often limited to self-employment in the informal economy, but they lack the standing and skills to advocate for themselves as entrepreneurs. Rural youth, meanwhile, suffer from poor education and lack the means to improve their employability. As insecurity fuels an unemployment crisis, these rural youth become particularly susceptible to getting involved with violent extremist groups.

In 2020, Tanager partnered with the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to pilot a youth entrepreneurial program, Cultivons L'Esprit D'Entreprise, or CLE, in Burkina Faso. They are now taking learnings from the three-year program to launch Carrefour des Opportunités (translated to "Opportunity Crossroads").

Understanding that digitalization can accelerate progress, Carrefour des Opportunités (CarrOpps) will leverage a combination of digital technologies and in-person hubs to improve youth engagement in positive activities and promote peace. The project will **facilitate access to digital resources, offer employment readiness training,**

## AT A GLANCE



**Project Name:** Carrefour des Opportunités

**Location:** 50 municipalities across Burkina Faso

**Project Years:** 2023–2028

**Funding Partner:** Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, The Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Project Goal:** Facilitate the positive engagement of youth (18–35) in Burkina Faso through their social and economic integration

provide entrepreneurship incubation, expand access to basic financial services, and offer health and nutrition e-coaching. CarrOpps aims to integrate youth 18 to 35 into Burkina Faso's social and economic fabric.

## TECHNICAL APPROACH

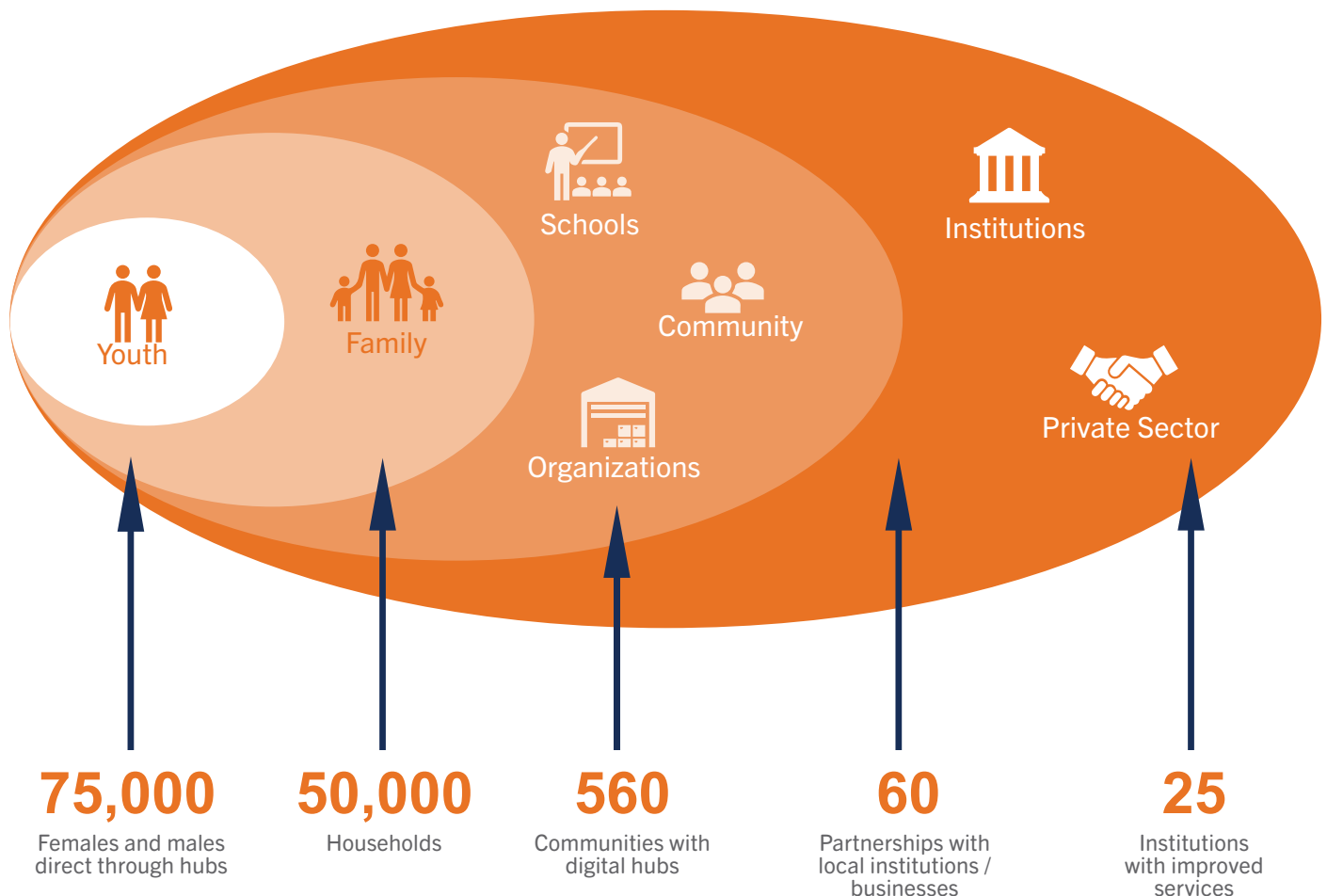
The CarrOpps program combines the successful entrepreneurship approach implemented under CLE and the proven life skills and employment readiness digital programs by AUXFIN and Bibliothèque Sans Frontiers (BSF). The combination of employment and entrepreneurship services and health, life, and social skills will be provided through Digital Community Youth Hubs. These hubs will exist both in virtual form as well as in physical community centers that offer safe spaces for youth to socialize and learn.

Ultimately, the interventions will be:

- Locally owned and led
- Flexible, iterative and innovative
- Differentiated by risk level
- Youth-centric
- Inclusive and gender-responsive

## TARGET IMPACTS

In addition to strengthening or creating 25,000 jobs, CarrOpps will have an impact across the entirety of Burkinabé society:



*\*Note: The photograph on the front of this fact sheet was created using artificial intelligence.*

Tanager, an ACDI/VOCA affiliate, empowers people to realize life-changing economic and social opportunities. We have 30 years of experience in integrating gender empowerment and nutrition into agriculture, connecting people across the production supply chain, fostering access for women and other marginalized groups, and unlocking sustainable, climate-smart economic opportunities for all.

[tanagerintl.org](http://tanagerintl.org)

Washington, DC  
50 F Street NW  
Ste 1000  
Washington, DC 20001

[info@tanagerintl.org](mailto:info@tanagerintl.org)

Burkina Faso  
11 BP 225  
Ouagadougou CMS 11