

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



THE BARKA FOUNDATION
Burkina Faso – USA





MEANING OF THE WORD 'BARKA'

Barka is an African word that transcends borders, languages and cultures. It conveys gratitude, blessing and reciprocity.

- BARUCH, a Hebrew word is related and means blessed, or “from You (Creator) emanates blessing”
- BARAKA, from ancient Sufi is also related; it is translated as “a blessing, or the breath, or the essence of life from which the evolutionary process unfolds”
- In Russian and Croatian a “barka” is a small and sturdy ship usually made of wood and built to travel long distances. In Albanian a ‘barka’ is an entire fleet of ships





OUR MISSION

BARKA serves as a catalyst for sustainable development in Burkina Faso through:

- WASH initiatives (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)
- Women's empowerment
- Climate mitigation strategies

BARKA also serves as a bridge between individuals, schools and communities of Burkina Faso and the United States to facilitate greater understanding, cultural exchange and the co-creation of a culture of peace.



OUR VISION

For the entire nation of Burkina Faso to have:

- Clean drinking water
- Improved sanitation
- Knowledge of basic hygiene principles
- Empowered women and girls to lead the community
- Skills to mitigate and adapt to climate change

For developed nations and development agencies, our vision is one in which indigenous culture and rights are respected, development is implemented with “free, prior and informed consent”, and isn’t simply about the rich helping the poor, but is about developing a reciprocal relationship of mutual benefit in which our collective gifts are able to be recognized, valued and shared with each other for a sustainable future.

OUR VALUES

- We start with water because it is the fundamental building block of life; water involves sanitation, healthcare, sustainable agriculture, good governance, and women’s empowerment
- We practice a holistic, integrated approach to poverty reduction
- Charity is obsolete- reciprocity, and how we can benefit from each other, is the new development paradigm
- We partner with indigenous villages and are led by their needs
- We are inter-generational, inter-disciplinary, inter-cultural, and interfaith
- We form long term, personal relationships
- We combine high and low-tech, and use both indigenous and modern techniques to find cost-effective, high-impact, culturally appropriate solutions
- Sustainability is the goal in everything we do
- We empower those with whom we work to become self –sustaining
- Local culture and traditional arts are an integral part of our approach
- BARKA serves as an advocate for indigenous people

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2015

- Number of wells drilled: 4
- Number of latrines built: 12
- Developed a professional theatre troupe
 - Created a full-length play about water, health and the importance of the role of women in water resource management
 - It performed in rural villages and Fada high schools 32 times in 43 days during the hottest time of year
 - It reached more than 13,000 people

Total Number of beneficiaries: (integrated WASH project): 21,812

Total funds for project implementation: \$164,000

COST PER BENEFICIARY: \$7.50

MILESTONES

Organization and Infrastructure:

- BARKA moved into its first official headquarters office in Fada N’Gourma
- BARKA won an auction bid to purchase its first car, a 2001 Toyota Land Cruiser – indispensable for reaching our partner communities way out in the bush
- With its two programs, Social Art and the WASH project in 5-Villages running parallel, the team of BARKA staffers on the ground successfully scaled from 4 to 24 people

Programs:

- Established partnerships with 5 villages in the Eastern and Center-East Regions of Burkina Faso to improve access to water, improved forms of sanitation and hygiene education
- Developed the capacity of local communities to support greater resilience

Partners:

New partners include:

- USAID WA WASH
- Rotary International
- Winrock International
- BESER (well drilling company)
- Burkina Ministry of Water & Sanitation
- UNICEF



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

Dear Friends of BARKA,

From the moment we arrived in Burkina Faso (16 years ago for Ina, 11 years ago for Esu), we knew our lives would be forever changed. What began as a personal spiritual exploration of indigenous wisdom traditions has become a UN-affiliated organization with operations on two continents which has a fierce dedication to sustainable development and social justice that is positively affecting thousands of people.



Origins

When we first came to Burkina, we were as deeply moved by the beauty, grace and generosity of the Burkinabè, as we were by the extreme poverty, oppression of women and lack of resources for basic amenities such as food, healthcare and education. In January 2005, after our first trip to Burkina Faso together, we felt compelled to act. Since then we've endured blistering heat, dust storms, torrential downpours, flooding, days without water or electricity, and we've suffered through malaria, dysentery and typhoid fever multiple times. Yet we feel so blessed by the people here who have become our extended family; they are so grateful for what BARKA and its supporters are doing, that we continue to feel like we're the lucky ones. Our commitment and dedication to this life purpose which unfolded mysteriously before us more than 10 years ago remains unwavering.

The Maturation of BARKA Foundation

Over the past year, BARKA not only implemented more projects with larger budgets than ever before in our history, we also strengthened our core, developing our Board of Directors and formalizing standard operating procedures and accounting practices.

In the current year, we are taking time to monitor and evaluate the work accomplished in 2015. We are also hard at work developing new projects that build on what we've learned and even venture into some exciting new directions such as reforestation, entrepreneurial endeavors and climate change mitigation.

How You Can Help

We thank you for being on the journey with us. We, together with those in the rural villages who directly benefit from your support, are filled with gratitude at all that you've made possible. Please consider deepening your relationship with The BARKA Foundation by occupying a seat at the table. Join us with a monthly donation of \$25 or more to become part of BARKA's Sustaining Donor Program and take part in a live, interactive quarterly conference call with us to get updates from the ground.

Just give us a call or signup on our website <https://barkafoundation.org/donate/>
We're making a commitment to share with you the incredible story unfolding on the ground. We ask you to pledge a commitment to ensure BARKA's work for years to come.

Barka,
Ina & Esu

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As is evident throughout this report, BARKA has been busy profoundly impacting the lives of all those it touches in Burkina Faso. We on the board continue to be impressed by the ability of the BARKA team to accomplish so much with so little. In a climate where well-known non-profits are being investigated for misuse of their donor's funds, BARKA stands out as a model of efficiency in terms of converting donations into results on the ground. This is a reflection of the integrity and transparency that are part of BARKA's mission, and it is a testament to the resourcefulness, determination, and passion of its founders, employees and volunteers.



As BARKA looks to expand its impact by providing broader services to more people, the organization needs to move to the next level of resources and staffing. It is clear that taking BARKA to the next level requires a renewed and heightened focus on fundraising. This will be a critical initiative in the coming year, and one that we on the Board wholeheartedly support.

We thank all who have supported BARKA. Without you, BARKA could not pursue its mission of sustainable development in Burkina Faso. As a result, you too are helping to change lives. We hope you will continue your generosity toward BARKA and share our story with others who may wish to join the cause.

Board of Directors

The BARKA Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Esu Anahata
President

Ina Anahata
Treasurer

Catherine Healy
Secretary

Dennis Alex*
Martis Alex*

Alex Falk
Tracy Heilman

Adam Ruderman
Gwen Young

**Retired in 2015*



OUR PROJECTS 2015

5-VILLAGE WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) PROJECT *(September 2014- December 2015)*

Budget: \$100,000

Partners:

- Rotary (Rotary International, and Individual Rotary Clubs from 4 continents: USA, South America, South Korea and Africa)
- USAID contributed a 100% match of Rotary's \$100,000 grant through technical assistance
- Winrock International provided a wide range of technical support including the training of BARKA staffers

WATER

4 wells drilled in the villages of Boungou (hamlet of Gnapiena), Bougui (hamlet of Todjama), Koare (hamlet of Mangouargou 2) and Kanougou (hamlet of Daltenga).

SANITATION

This project addressed needs in the communities and local primary schools which did not have sanitation facilities. 12 latrines were built for boys, girls and teachers in 4 schools.

HYGIENE EDUCATION

This project was integrated with a robust hygiene program which included:

- Teaching teachers how to create sustainable hygiene education in their village primary schools
- Providing a wide range of materials for schools such as hand washing stations, cleaning materials for the latrines, and trash cans
- Training the community about basic hygiene principles
- Training "hygienists" in each village to serve as change agents within the community

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 21,112

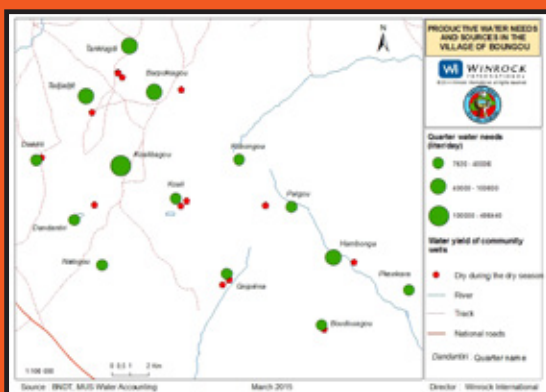
WATER ACCOUNTING: DETERMINING WHERE A WELL IS NEEDED MOST

- Burkina Faso is a small landlocked country of 19 million people in West Africa
- Less than 50% of its population has access to clean drinking water
- The Eastern region where BARKA works is one of the hottest, driest, poorest, and least developed areas in Burkina Faso
- People in this region are very dispersed and in some areas access to water is less than 31%
- Less than half of 1054 schools in the region have access to water



Yoni Idrissa, BARKA's WASH Technical Assistant, uses a special app on a smartphone to upload GPS coordinates of this hand-dug water source in the village of Boungou. He will later survey the local population to better understand how each water point is used. In a community-led style, BARKA works closely with villagers at every stage of the project to ensure its sustainability and success.

In the 2015 WASH project, BARKA's partner villages demonstrated the most severe water needs in the area. The maps below of Boungou, one of the project's beneficiary communities, show the 34 water points within the village which serve a population of 18,490.



Through a process known as “water accounting”, data is collected that allows us to map where each water point is located, understand how the water from each source is used (domestic or productive use), determine how great the need is based on relative population density, and verify the type of water source, e.g., surface water, a hand-dug well, an improved hand-dug well, or a drilled pump well.



A villager of Bounkou climbs down into an almost dry well to fill the bucket with muddy water for his family.

WATER ACCOUNTING enabled BARKA to determine that the hamlet of Gnapiena within the village of Bounkou had the greatest need— a population of 728 with an estimated daily need of 14,560 liters of water. Before the project, this community did not have a single water source within a 3km radius.

Winrock International trained BARKA's animators and staff in this technique as a part of the technical assistance it received from USAID's West Africa WASH program.

As part of BARKA's efforts to support local synergies and cooperation, the data acquired from its research is openly shared with other actors of the local development sector.



“I never worked so hard at a job and was so tired at the end of every day and yet look forward to going to work and doing it again tomorrow because it was so much fun.”

— *Firman Dialga, Actor in the BARKA Troupe*

USING THEATRE TO TEACH HYGIENE EDUCATION

BARKA’s Social Arts Program made innovative use of theatre and debate to reinforce hygiene education through social messages.

- BARKA developed its own play which delivered social messages on:
 - Hygiene related issues
 - The need for the village’s water committee to collect small sums of money from water users to save for future repairs to water services
 - The importance of the role of women in water resource management
- The play, “Water for the Present and for the Future” performed 15 times in rural bush villages (in indigenous languages of Gulimanchema and Moré) and 17 times in high schools in Fada (in French)
- Post-performance debates allowed the audience to take part, to engage with the issues raised in the performance, to give feedback on how it relates to their own lives and village context, and even at times to make commitments to improve their situation (e.g., in the village of Koare, after the performance one of the chief’s ministers pledged funds to fix the local well which had recently stopped working)
- Through the training and capacity building of several local theatre associations and a number of actors, an important contribution to the local artistic scene was made

RESULTS

- The “spectacle” was seen by 13,331 direct beneficiaries
 - 7998 people in village and public performances
 - 5333 students in Fada’s high schools
 - Average audience size: 416



NEW DIRECTIONS FOR BARKA IN EDUCATION: BUILDING SCHOOLS

BARKA's mobilization of a village led it to reconstruct its school

Location: Hamlet of Dandantiri, village of Boungou

- As a part of its WASH-in Schools initiative, BARKA supported the small school in Dandantiri by constructing a latrine and implementing a robust hygiene education program which included teaching the teachers at the school
- BARKA also worked to empower the village at the community level through 'social mobilization' which is included as a component of our work in the WASH domain
 - **AS A RESULT** The village mobilized itself to raise \$1000 in funds to create a more permanent structure for their school which was made of millet stalks and would collapse each year during the rainy season. Village leaders approached BARKA for the remaining \$2000 needed to complete the funding for the village-initiated project
- BARKA created an online fundraising campaign and within 1 week, raised the necessary funds for this mini-project
- The architectural plan for the new building was done by the local pastor and all construction was implemented by local villagers
- The community of Dandantiri as a whole took our partnership to the next level and proactively sought to improve their own situation; this is one way BARKA serves as a catalyst for sustainable development

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE: CERAMIC WATER FILTERS

BARKA is working together with Poceram, a Burkina-based ceramic company, and Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement de Ouagadougou (2iE) to create a sustainable business to combat the crisis of waterborne disease through the production, sale and distribution of ceramic water filters.

Ceramic Water Filters are:

- Simple, low-tech and inexpensive
- Effective at filtering out 99.97% of pathogens that cause diarrhea
- Environmentally sustainable
- Easy to use and maintain, lightweight and portable
- Long-lasting (average lifespan is 3-5 years)
- Culturally familiar (water is traditionally stored in ceramic urns); leads to high adoption rates

Ceramic filters are well adapted to the context of Burkina Faso and pose an ideal solution to make clean drinking water more available for people who must often drink dirty water from rivers and standing pools to stay alive.





EDUCATION IN THE USA

Swampscott High School, Swampscott, MA

With the support of faculty and students in Swampscott HS, a wide range of activities have taken place to benefit BARKA and students at Lycee Communal de Fada in Burkina Faso:

- Penpal relationships through “wikis” created in computer science class as part of SHS’ STEM program
- The donation of cameras to facilitate a photo club in Fada’s public high school
- Numerous events (Valentine’s Day bake sale, a Coffee House Open Mic Night, water projects in the science fair, etc.) to raise funds for laptops and tablets for students in Fada



BARKA is currently in discussion with Swampscott and Marblehead High Schools to bring a group of students to visit Burkina Faso in 2017.



Joe Penny, Reuters

SOCIO-POLITICAL UPDATE

- On October 30, 2014, the population of Burkina, led by its youth, rose up to overthrow the dictator, Blaise Compoare, and toppled the corrupt and repressive regime he led for 27 years.
- A Transition government was established to work toward the nation's first, free democratic elections in almost 30 years.
- In September, 2015, a short-lived coup was attempted by the former President's military guard, which underestimated the population's commitment to self-determination and democracy. Once again, people of all ages came together and united with the Republican Army to overthrow those who tried to hijack the Transition process.
- In November 2015, in a free, fair and democratic election, Marc Roch Christian Kabore was elected president.
- Three days after the new president selected his cabinet, terrorists struck the Hotel Splendid and Cappuccino café in Ouagadougou. 29 people were killed by jihadists who had ties with the former dictator.
- Since then, Burkina has ramped up its security significantly. Things have calmed down as the new regime has gotten to work on a wide range of issues, primarily the sustainable development of the country.



OUR DONORS 2014 and 2015

ABOVE \$5000

Glen Niemy
Martis and Dennis Alex
Alex Falk

\$1000 - \$4999

Catherine Healy
Anita Balliro
Susan Donner and Eric Klein
John Bapst Memorial
High School
Swampscott High School
Great Barrington Rotary Club
Swampscott Rotary Club
Marblehead Rotary Club
The Rotary Foundation
Denver Rotary Club
Rosalind Reis
Ruth Rosenfeld
Paul Clark

\$500 - \$999

Tracy Heilman
Marie Gallagher
Stan Weglarz
Steve Weglarz
Herb Goldsmith
Mike Schuster
Lance Vermeulen
Daniel Small
Allen Kleinman

\$100 - \$499

Lisa Tapert
Micah Niemy*
Wendell and Mary Moore
Peggy Hawkins
Doris Weglarz
Henry and Kash Stober
Phyllis Lichtenstein
Hazel Horowitz
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Cecile Dufay
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Kai Jud
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Mary Campbell
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Bill Korstad
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Ciaran Quinn
Noel Watson
Clario Menezes
Liv Wheeler*
Anonymous
Chris Ratley
Melissa Albert*
Bobby Jenusaitis
David Sprague
Douglas Sussman
Cherie Fischer
Ser Seet*
Laurie Thomsen
Patricia Corley
Eve Bogen

Wassokey School
Melissa Doe
Doc Z. and Krystal Rose*

UP TO \$99

Tim Cochran
Erika Laurion
Joan Athey
Anonymous
Janice Sprow
Christina Norris
Anonymous
Natalie Shiras
Theresa Idell
Tris Robertson
Anonymous
Andrew MacGregor
Tanika Harbor
Maria Matthews
Abbe Smith
Matthew Baya*
Linda Koehler
Sofia Wilder
Debby Christo
Ivy Berchuk
Amelle Ruslier and
M. Bruno Ruslier
Anne Montagnez
Severine Contri Nahon

Caroline Louisor
Maneix Pascale
Lea Earnhart
Fany Pechiodat
Lou Murrin-Honore
Joey Grassi
Kathleen and Ed Stevens
Jean Matlack
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Maryann Ingalls
Bernard Miller
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Kai Wendelken
Kat Nemeck
Heidi Cline
Ruth Sanders
Margaret Hausman
Linda Pettitt
Elizabeth Fox
Christian Polman*
Susan Huot
Aurelie Maragou
Lisa Buchinski*
Anonymous
Barbara Dean
Daniel Banks

* Recurring Donors

IN LOVING MEMORY

We wish to acknowledge the extraordinary support shown to the BARKA Foundation from Esu's parents, Naomi and Gerald Patlis since BARKA's inception. This work would never have been possible without their generosity, understanding and love.



Donor Profile

GLEN NIEMY: THE POWER OF ONE

In 2011, after Ina and Esu gave a presentation of BARKA's work at the Bridgton Lakes Region Rotary Club, Glen Niemy, a lawyer for death row inmates in NY and CA, took Ina's hand, put a \$50 bill in it, and said there was more where that comes from. He wasn't kidding.

Glen loves what BARKA is all about, and he gets the whole cultural aspect that we bring into our work on the ground. He likes to say that no one, no matter what their politics are, can argue with bringing clean water to people in need—"it's inarguable", which is a real testament coming from a lawyer!

Here's a brief snapshot of what Glen Niemy has done for BARKA during the past 5 years:

- 2010: Raised over \$3000 in funds for BARKA in 2 marathons
- 2011: Purchased new uniforms, balls, and shoes for boys and girls soccer teams at one primary school in a rural village and one high school in Fada (Total donation: \$600)
- 2012: Purchased 3 laptops and two tablets to jumpstart a computer program at a high school in Fada (Total donation: \$2000)
- 2013: Enabled internet access for Fada's 3 largest high schools (Total donation: \$1200)
- 2013: Purchased 20 bikes for students who had been walking miles every day to attend school (Total donation: \$700)
- 2013: Glen joined BARKA's Board of Directors
- 2013-14: Directed \$45,000 to BARKA from a private estate he was managing which wanted funds to go to a worthy charity
- 2015: Funds to support the re-building of the primary school in Dandantiri (total donation: \$2000)
- 2016: An additional \$600 to support the building of concrete walls in the Dandantiri village primary school

Glen is still supporting the people of Burkina Faso and BARKA Foundation.

He wants the people of Burkina to know that Americans care, and often asks that he receive no personal credit for his donation, simply that we display an American flag.

In Burkina Faso, where the value of a dollar can stretch so far, Glen has shown us all how much a single individual can do.

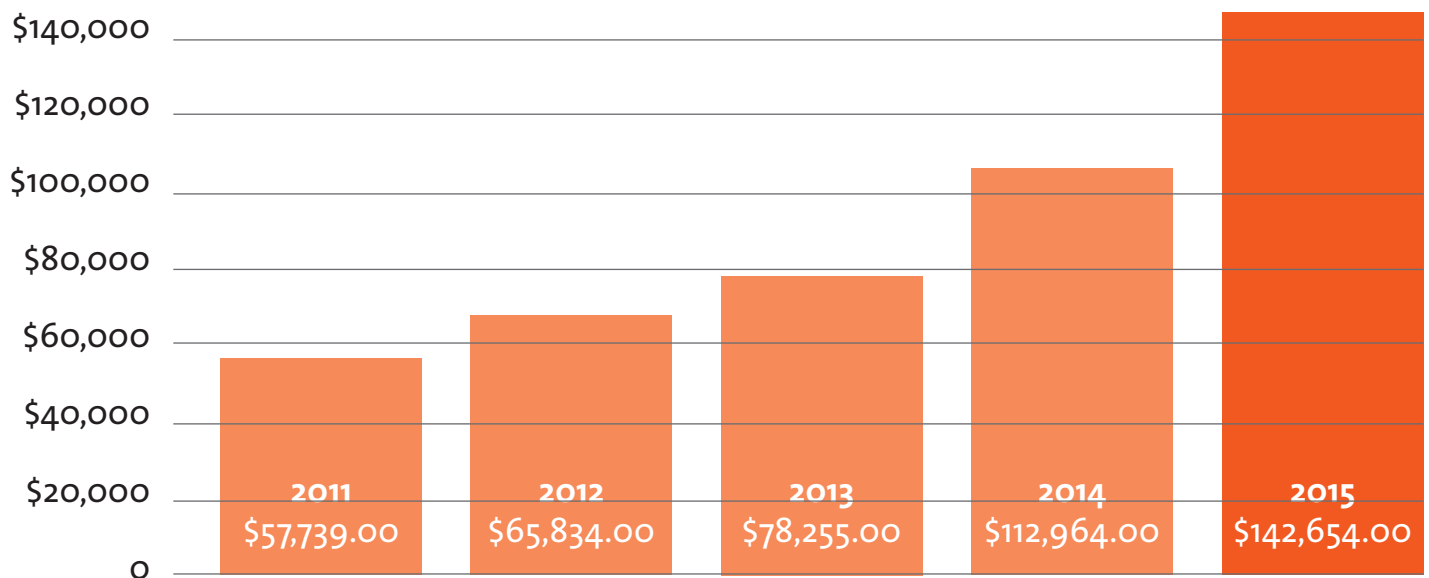


STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS-CASH BASIS

TOTAL ALL FUNDS FOR AT DECEMBER 31

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$4,668	\$22,008
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT (at cost)		
Land	22,714	22,714
Building	90,857	90,857
Office Equipment	16,763	16,763
Total	130,334	130,334
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	20,572	15,960
NET PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	109,762	114,374
TOTAL	\$114,430	\$136,382
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Current Portion of Notes Payable	\$6,880	\$6,759
Long-Term Portion of Notes Payable	78,718	82,099
TOTAL LIABILITIES	85,598	88,858
NET ASSETS	28,832	47,524
TOTAL	\$114,430	\$136,382

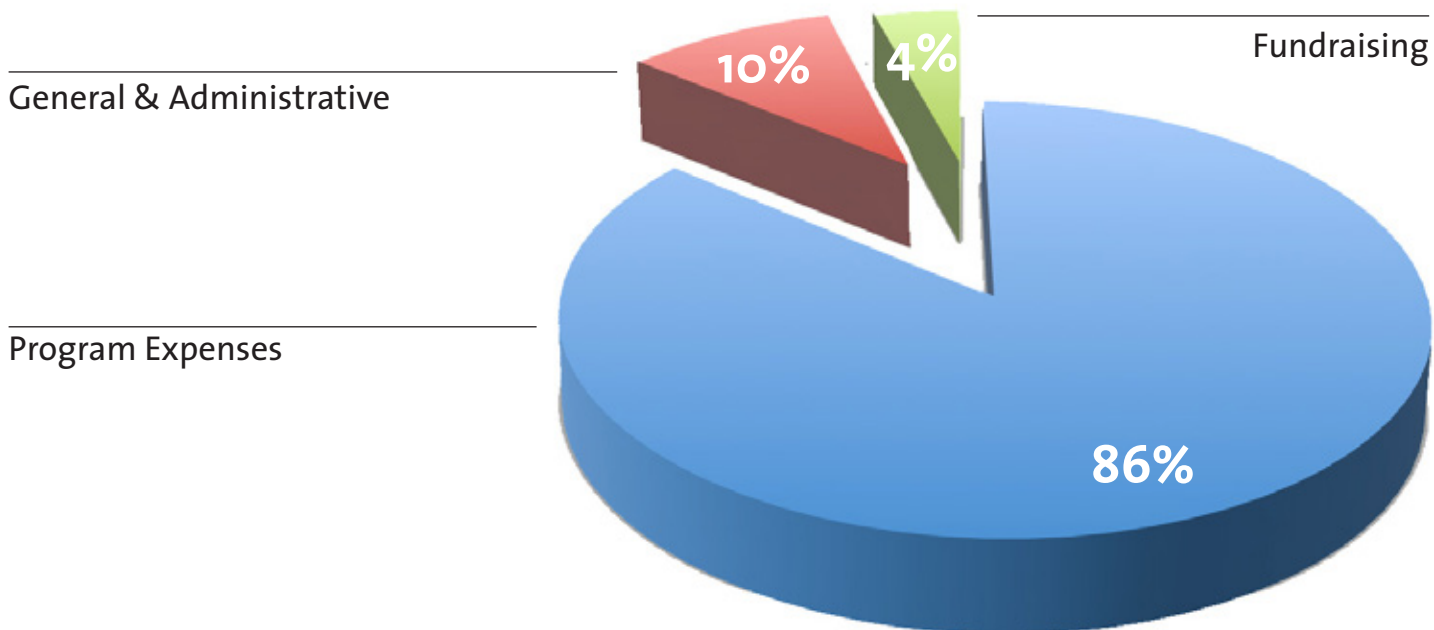
THE BARKA FOUNDATION INC. 2015 INCOME



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS

	TOTAL ALL FUNDS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31	
	2015	2014
SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Contributions	\$142,654	\$112,964
New Realized & Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	—	(1,497)
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	142,654	111,467
EXPENSES		
Program Expenses	138,944	71,533
Fundraising Expenses	6,603	7,441
General & Administrative Expenses	15,799	21,704
TOTAL EXPENSES	161,346	100,678
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(18,695)	10,789
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	47,524	36,735
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$28,832	\$47,524

THE BARKA FOUNDATION INC. 2015 EXPENSES





CALL FOR SUPPORT

BARKA experienced explosive growth in 2015. Now that we've collectively raised the bar, we face new challenges to sustain an organization that has greater capacity and increased sophistication in the work it can implement. We're so excited about the things to come, yet we need your continued participation to make it happen.

Beginning now, we are extending an invitation for you to join BARKA's co-founders and other key people in a live quarterly conference call from the ground (whether they're in Burkina or the US) in exchange for becoming a **BARKA Sustaining Donor**.

BARKA SUSTAINING DONOR PROGRAM

For a monthly recurring gift of \$25 or more, you will become a BARKA Sustaining Donor and help ensure the continuation of its important work in areas of:

- Clean Water
- Sanitation
- Climate Mitigation
- Women's Empowerment
- Hygiene Education
- Human Rights

By becoming a BARKA Sustaining Donor you will be a part of the team that makes it happen. Get closer to the work you're making possible during live, interactive quarterly updates with Ina & Esu.

There is so much more work to do, and we're better positioned to have greater impact than ever before, yet we can't do it without you! On behalf of the rural villagers we serve in Burkina Faso, we ask you to make a generous tax-deductible donation today.

HERE'S HOW:

MAIL: Write a check to The BARKA Foundation at P.O. Box 2, Burlington, ME 04417

ONLINE: Make a secure online donation at: <https://barkafoundation.org/donate>

SMS: Text a \$10 donation through Global Giving by typing "GIVE 4941" to 80100

Thank you for your commitment, trust and faith in the future of The BARKA Foundation. For more information about The BARKA Foundation, visit our website at <http://barkafoundation.org>

The BARKA Foundation is a UN-affiliated
NGO with the Department of Public Information.

BARKA also has Special Consultative Status with the
UN's Economic and Social Affairs Division.

