

# The Library of Sara

BURKINA FASO

- Library founded : 2005
- Librarian : PEMOU Lucie
- Number of subscribers : 151
- Number of books in stock : 1,852



**T**he library, which previously was used as storage for grains, has now become a community gathering place. Lucie, the librarian, conducts weekly activities for young children such as story telling and arts and crafts. Most recently, the library has begun holding literacy classes in the villagers' native language of Jula.

**S**ara is a village located in southwest Burkina Faso, 80 kilometers from the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. The majority of the population is Bwaba, though one can also find people of the Mossi, Peuhl and Dafing ethnic groups.

*Thank you for supporting Sara's library !*

[www.favl.org](http://www.favl.org)



# About Friends of African Village Libraries

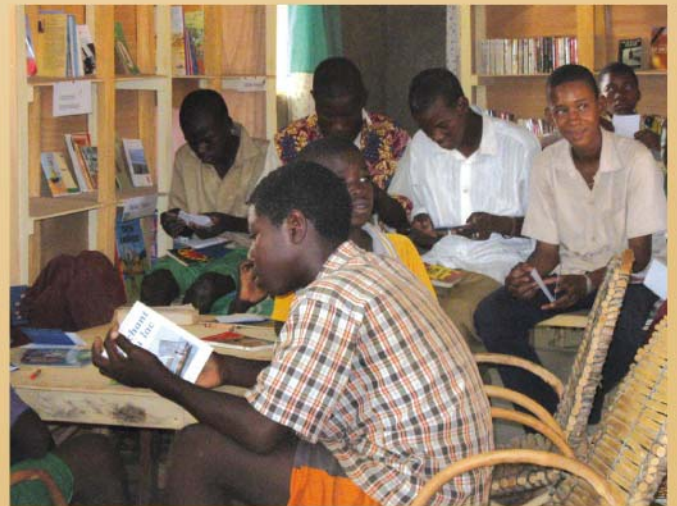


**F**riends of African Village Libraries (FAVL) helps villagers in rural Africa set up small libraries where children and adults can read stories, novels, newspapers, non-fiction, poetry, and history.

FAVL's mission is to establish libraries that will serve entire communities – from students and teachers to children who have not yet started school and adults who may have had little education at all.

Since its founding in 2001 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, FAVL has established and successfully managed eight village libraries in Burkina Faso, three in Ghana, one in Tanzania and one in Uganda.

FAVL typically works with communities and donors willing to fund the refurbishment and maintenance of a locally donated building for use as a library, pay for initial and periodic training of librarians, pay the salary of the librarian, fund initial and ongoing purchases of local books by African authors, and ship appropriate donated books from abroad. FAVL requests a significant contribution from the village community. Usually this means the donation of an old building in the village center that is suitable for conversion for use as a library. A library committee made up of village leaders is entrusted with overall and day-to-day supervision of the library. FAVL partners, with local non-profit organizations and village committees, oversee library operations.



FAVL managed libraries typically have between 1,000 and 2,000 books suitable for pre-school, primary and secondary school students and literate adults. A paid librarian operates the library for 20 hours or more each week. The libraries are open to the public and subscribers have the right to take home books for two weeks after paying a very modest annual fee. In Burkina Faso the fees are 20 cents for children and students, 40 cents for village residents, and 60 cents for government officials per year. Librarians have discretion to give out free memberships to children whom they believe do not have the financial means to become subscribers.

