



## Earth Roofs in the Sahel

### Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Ghana

Millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to decent and affordable housing. Deforestation has led to scarcity of timber and straw for traditional roof construction. Families spend what little money they have on imported and expensive timber and sheet metal to put a roof over their heads, further worsening the vicious circle of poverty in which they are trapped.

Through its *Earth Roofs in the Sahel Program: A Roof + A Skill + A Market*, the Association la Voûte Nubienne is addressing this problem with a traditional, very low-carbon building technique known as Nubian Vault. The organization supports the training of local builders, in order to create a sustainable and autonomous Nubian Vault market.

### Key facts

- New homes are appropriate, sustainable, and affordable, keeping scarce monetary resources in the local economy, and the market average annual growth rate is about 30% since the start of the programme.
- The houses require no wood in their construction (saving 4 trees per house), and avoid the transport of imported materials (cement, steel, corrugated sheet).
- 320 trained masons and their teams have built more than 2,400 Nubian Vault homes in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal with plans to scale up and replicate in other countries.

### More information

High-resolution images and infographics are available for download at:  
<http://bit.ly/1xVnHKj>

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