

Who Does All the Work?

GOAL: To consider how responsibilities are divided amongst family members.

Kids in places like Burkina Faso have lots of jobs to do to help their families.

Some of the jobs kids do include fetching water, washing dishes and cleaning up, looking after younger brothers and sisters, and even grinding grains into flour to use for cooking and baking. Some jobs are for parents, some are for kids, and many jobs are divided between boys/men and girls/women. What kinds of jobs do you do around your house? Who else does work around your house? How do the various jobs get split up (that's called the "division of labour")? How does the division of labour at your place compare to the division of labour in places like Burkina Faso?

1. Make a list of jobs that need to be done around your house (and for your household). The list can include tending the garden, vacuuming, mopping, setting the table, washing dishes, mowing the lawn, cooking meals, working outside the home to make money, and going to school to learn new things (and many other things that are different in different families – the list can be practically endless!). Write each job in the left-hand column of the chart on the next page.
 - others to boys and men? Are some types of jobs assigned to kids and others to adults? Do people outside of your family do jobs for your family (for example, does anyone else do any cleaning or pick up your garbage)?
2. For one week, keep track of who does the jobs around your house and for your household. Each day, whenever someone does one of the jobs described in the "jobs" column, write their name beside the name of the job and underneath the day of the week.
3. At the end of the week, look for patterns in the information that you have recorded. Do certain family members do particular jobs most of the time? Do some family members get away with not doing certain jobs for the whole week? Are some types of jobs assigned to girls and women and
4. In Burkina Faso, jobs are often divided between males and females. For instance, sometimes boys and men are responsible for clearing fields, planting seeds, weeding, harvesting, and constructing houses and granaries; sometimes girls and women are responsible for planting seeds, weeding, harvesting, transporting crops, processing crops (things like pounding millet), cooking meals, collecting firewood, and fetching water for the family. Women often have their own fields where they grow their own crops in addition to helping the men by doing work for the family farm.
5. Compare the division of labour in your house to the division of labour in Burkina Faso. Answering the questions below the chart may help you to do this.
6. If the division of labour in your family is unfair, what can you do to make it fair?



