

Public preschool of Erokoya, Region of Léma, Municipality of Dassa-Zoumé, Republic of Benin

From Cotonou we drive about 200 km north on the arterial road past Godomey, Abomey-Calavi, Allada and Bohicon to Dassa-Zoumé. Dassa-Zoumé is the most southern of the six municipalities in the department Collines. The whole region is characterized by rocky hills. The enormous granite blocks inspire the imagination of huge mountains in the long past.

Once in Dassa-Zoumé, we inquire about the village of Erokoya. People try to explain how to get there, but as unfamiliar people we have difficulties to follow their descriptions. Therefore we hire a young man as a guide. Finally, behind Sokponta, a red clay road leads to the back of the hills of Dassa-Zoumé. We cross streams with bridges that can hardly be called such. While driving, we doubt how to transport materials to the school once the project will take off. It is impossible for large trucks to journey on these roads. This means, that we have to transport the materials in small quantities using pick-ups. It is also the rainy season right now and the watercourses carry sufficient water. We would have to plan our work well for this project.

In Erokoya we are expected by members of the PTA of the preschool, the director of the elementary school, who represents the principal of the preschool, and the chief of the region. All wear face masks and are seated in a classroom of the primary school in compliance with the distance regulations.



We discuss all the concerns of the preschool and consider possible solutions. Then we visit the old preschool building. It was built 44 years ago from stamped red clay. I am impressed that the building lasted so long. If we build a friendly child-adapted building for the preschool, the parents want to continue using the old building as a canteen.



On the side, where the plaster has crumbled away, you can see the wall made of pounded clay.



These are the toilets of the preschool.

The result of our considerations on how to create a friendly environment for preschool children is as follows:

1. Construction of a building with two (02) classrooms plus an office for the director and a storage room for teaching materials. The classrooms will be decorated with large murals and be equipped with one playhouse and a closet each. The director's office will have a closet and the storage space two shelves.

Cost: € 34,000

2. Construction of a toilet block with four (04) cabins

Cost: € 5,000

3. Setup of play equipment in the yard of the preschool (slide, carousel and swing)

Cost: € 2,500

4. In addition, I suggest that in the course of this project we will build a toilet block with eight (08) cabins for the elementary school because they look no different than the ones of the preschool.

Cost: € 9,000

5. Cost of construction inspections: € 5,000

The total cost of the project is 55,500 €.