

1st work report
(September 11th 2024 to January 5th 2025)

**on the construction of one school building holding 2 classrooms, office, storage
room and toilets
for the public preschool of Kpakpa-Agbagoulè
District of Lema
Municipality of Dassa-Zoumé
Republic of Benin**

On September 11th we travel to Agbagoulè and meet with the village population for the general assembly. We are accompanied by our volunteer from Potsdam. Many people have gathered at the meeting place, the shady spot under a large mango tree. After the welcome, the contract is read out. People ask questions, which we answer. Then a vote is taken on whether the people agree with the contract.



After the meeting, we set off to buy cement, iron, planks, nails and teak logs. We find everything in the town of Glazouè. Before dark, the planks, nails and teak logs, which we need to build the battering frame, are delivered.

The next day we create the battering frame.



The building materials arrive:
cement



sand



gravels



water

While the people from the village dig the foundation trenches, the bricklayers make the building blocks and the iron benders make the iron inserts.



Finally, the foundation base is poured and the pillars are arranged.



The foundation walls are then built up to the lower iron anchor.



The lower iron anchor is encased and cast. The walls of the building are built on top of it.



A small iron anchor is inserted below the window openings. Then the walls are built up to the window lintel. The pillars of the veranda are cast. Then the iron anchor above them is cast in one piece.



On the upper iron anchor
the walls are built.



And it continues to the
iron anchor below the roof.



The gables are erected above the last iron anchor.



The walls of the building are completed!



The toilet pit could not be dug deeper than 2 m because water soon began to rise. A 40 cm thick layer of concrete mixed with Sikalite and Sikalutex was poured in as a foundation base. A second layer of the same thickness was poured after the iron inlays of the pillars were inserted.



On this foundation the walls were erected.



After the walls of the toilet pit were plastered with Sikalite and Sikalutex,

the pit was closed.



The toilet block was built and the staircases were constructed. The stairs were attached to the block with iron.



When work was finished, we left the building site to the villagers to fill the classrooms with sand. The walls have to dry for a month before the roof can be put on.



On November 21st, the carpenters went to Agbagoulè with our first chairman. Mr Ahlonsou bought all the necessary materials before returning to Calavi. The carpenters supervised the cutting of the planks and then transported the cut wood to the construction site. In Agbagoulè, the wood was treated with insect repellent.



Then the cross ties are manufactured.



The longitudinal beams are attached above



and the roof is tied to the building with the iron rods. To the ends of the beams boards are added to make the roof truss look neat.



The roofing sheets are then screwed on.



The roof will soon be finished and the doors and window shutters will be placed.



The children are excited.

After the sand has been sieved, the plastering work begins.



First inside the classrooms, then the outside walls.



Sikalite and Sikalatex are mixed into the plaster for the exterior walls to prevent rainwater from penetrating the plaster.



Next, the soils are compacted and cemented.



The staircases are carefully finished and the railing of the ramp is installed.



Finally, the roof ridge is closed.



Work is also done on the toilets.



Small tables and benches were made of concrete.





The play equipment is cemented into the ground



Finally, the painters arrive and give the buildings the special colors that characterizes our association's projects.





A radiantly beautiful school building

We are happy for the children and together with them we thank the donors. We will be preparing the opening ceremony over the next few days. We are expecting visitors from Germany! The area around the new building should be tidied up by then.