

**1<sup>st</sup> Work report**  
**on the construction of one building and toilets for the preschool of Gbessoumè**  
**February 20, 2022**

On January 25, 2022 we met with the people of Gbessoumè for the General Assembly. We had already arrived with our construction team and the crossing by boat was an event for everyone. Everything was there: motorcycle, solar panels, tools and a lot of good atmosphere.



When we arrived to Gbessoumè, the local people welcomed us with songs and dance.



Then we got together for the meeting. Many children were gathered around us. As usual, we read the contract and had it translated for the villagers. Questions were asked and answered. After that, a positive vote was taken for the contract. We visited the building site, the location where to stock the

building materials and the accommodation for the workers. When I asked where I could stay, at first people were at a loss. They promised to consult with each other and then show me my accommodation.



After the meeting, the chairman of our NPO, an iron bender, a carpenter, and I returned to the mainland to look for gravel, iron, cement, and planking boards. It wasn't easy to get the large quantities we needed. We also didn't want to buy small quantities, as this would make the ship transport from the loading point to Gbessoumè more expensive. The delivery of iron was promised for the following day. Cement had to be ordered. Already in the dark we finally returned to Gbessoumè with the formwork boards.



This enabled us to at least set up the batter board for the building the next day.



Gravel, iron and cement were delivered as we worked.

gravel delivery:



Gravel is loaded into boats at the shipping point.



The boat arrives in Gbessoumè



For unloading, the gravel is packed in bowls and carried to the construction site.



Transport of cement:



Cement is loaded

and



transported



Iron rods arrive:

And building blocks are quickly being made.



After that, the construction advances at lightning speed



The first concrete layer is cast.



The pillars are worked into this.



All pillars are aligned



The walls of the foundation grow.



The lower iron anchor is being placed



The iron anchor below the window openings is ready and well hooked.



The walls continue to grow and the metal form-work for the pillars on the veranda is ready.



Daring scaffolding!



The pillars are poured.



The gables are bricked up.



Staircases are created.



The ramp is made.

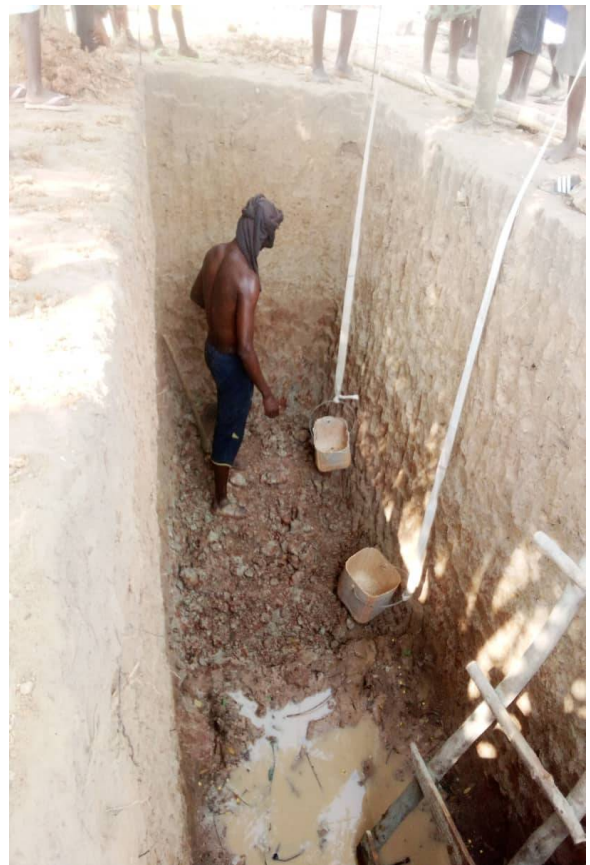


The walls have to dry for at least 2 weeks before the roof truss can be made.

In the meantime the location of the toilet is determined and the people of Gbessoumè start digging.



The ground is very hard and needs water to be softened.



## Visit to Gbessoumè



Not even a month has passed since the start of work. I would like to thank all employees for the fast work. During the execution of this project, our biggest problem is water. Not for the construction, because the construction site is right next to the river. The school children busily transported water from the river to the construction site with wheelbarrows. But there is no source of drinking water. The people who live by the river have strict rules. Nobody is allowed to pollute the water with excrement. The river is the basis of life par excellence. But we strangers are not used to the river water. A diarrhea epidemic would put an abrupt end to our work. We were forced to fetch water from outside. Eventually some workers tried to make the river water drinkable with Aquatabs.

The interaction with the population is pleasant and friendly. The visit of 2 young architects was also accepted with great pleasure.

Many thanks to the association Fly and Help and to the donor who made this project possible.  
Warm regards from Gbessoumè  
Astrid Toda