

1st Work Report
(November 5, 2024 to January 17, 2025)
on the construction of two buildings holding
three classrooms each, one with office, storage
room, and restrooms
for the public elementary school
of Golo-Djigbé Group C
Municipality of Abomey-Calavi

On November 5, 2024, we meet with the Parents' Association and the population for a general meeting to begin construction work on the new buildings for the Elementary School of Golo-Djigbe. The contract is read, questions are answered, and then a vote is taken.



When I subsequently announce that construction will begin the following day, people are very surprised. They doubt whether I'm serious.

After we part ways, I order sand, gravel, iron, and cement. Everything is delivered between November 6 and 7. While we implante the buildings, the first building blocks and iron inserts are made.



The population immediately begins excavating the foundation trenches for the buildings.



The first foundation base is cast and the iron inserts are incorporated into it.



Our volunteer Benedikt tries his hand at the construction site.



The second layer of concrete is poured over the iron reinforcements. The foundation walls are then built on top. The lower iron anchor is poured, and the building's walls are constructed on top of this.



When the walls reach the height of the window openings, a small iron anchor is cast there.



The walls now grow to the window lintel. The pillars are being cast on the veranda.



While the carpenter prepares the formwork for the upper iron anchor, the bricklayers build the ramp and the staircases.



When the formwork is finished, the upper iron anchor is cast in one piece.



The walls are now raised by four rows of bricks before one more iron anchor is made below the roof.



The gables are built on top of this.



The ends of the pillars in the gables are cast.



We are now celebrating the gable festival, a moment of joy and relaxation on the construction site.



Now the walls need to dry for four weeks before the roof can be made. In the meantime, the two buildings are being connected by a walkway for students with mobility difficulties.



The toilets are now also being built.





The toilet block is built above the closure plate.



Once the walls of the buildings have dried thoroughly, the carpenters complete the roof trusses and install the asbestos-free Eternit panels. The roof truss beams are coated with insect repellent.





The cross ties are made and then the long planks are attached to them.



The roofs are finished

The toilet block also got its roof.



Plastering work will begin soon. At this point, the price of cement has risen dramatically (from €125 to €145 per ton). We're waiting a bit to see if it returns to normal.

I would like to thank all our supporters, the NPO Fly and Help, the BMZ and our partner NPO Bildungswerk Westafrika e.V. for their constant support of our projects.

With kind regards
Astrid Toda