

**1<sup>st</sup> work report**  
(December 4, 2024 to February 18, 2025)  
**on the construction of one school building holding 2  
classrooms, one office, one storage place and toilets  
for the public preschool of Tchaladé  
district of Ouaké-Center  
municipality of Ouaké  
Republic of Benin**

Since the general assembly at the preschool of Tchaladé is scheduled for 9 a.m. on December 4, 2024, our team travels to Ouaké the day before. In addition to the NPO's chairman and secretary, our two volunteers from Germany are part of the delegation.

The general assembly begins with a slight delay. After the usual welcoming remarks, the contract is read aloud and translated. The focus is on the role of the villagers. Generally, people are already informed, as they had observed the construction of the building in Koukoulounda. Nevertheless, there are a few questions that we answer. In the subsequent vote, the contract is approved unanimously.



The fathers agree. Among the women, even the children vote for the project.





After the vote, we inspect the construction site together. The community engineer makes some suggestions, which are accepted by the villagers. While the chairman, the iron bender, and the formworker set out to purchase the initial materials, the engineer and the masons prepare everything to build the battering frame. The villagers bring small teak logs to the construction site, which are immediately split and sharpened. The formworker soon returns with the formwork boards. The work can begin.



It doesn't take long for the first sand, cement, and iron to arrive. The brick layers immediately get to work.





Meanwhile, the population is digging the foundation trenches.



The women diligently carry water to the construction site.



Once the foundation trenches have been dug, the masons pour the first concrete base and place the iron reinforcement. The pillars are then positioned. Thanks to the batter board, this task is relatively easy. The second layer of concrete is poured on top.





After the foundation base has dried, the building blocks are placed and the foundation walls grow in no time.



The lower iron anchor is in place. It is being sheathed and cast.  
The electrician is installing the grounding.



The walls are built on the lower iron anchor. A small iron anchor is inserted below the window openings.



The walls are built up to the lintel.





The veranda pillars are cast.



At this height, the upper iron anchor is prepared and cast in one piece.



And on we go! The walls are raised up to the iron anchor below the roof, and this iron anchor is cast.







The gables are built above



After the walls are finished, the ramp is built.



While the walls dry, the bricklayers begin to brick up the toilet pit.





The pit is plastered inside with Sikalit and Sikalatex



Finally, the pit is closed.



The toilet block is built on the closure plate.



The small tables and benches are then made of concrete.







Once the building's walls are dry, the carpenters travel to Tchalade. They search for ebony timber and have them cut to size. The cut wood is brought to the construction site. It is laid out and coated with insect repellent.



Then the cross ties are made.



The longitudinal planks are attached on to the cross ties.





Finally, the roofing sheets are screwed on the roof truss.



Because the price of cement has risen sharply at this time, the bricklayers decided to wait for some time before they start the plastering work. We hope that the price will stabilize soon.

I send a heartfelt "thank you" to all our friends and supporters of our projects. I would like to thank the association "Fly and Help" and the staff of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for funding this project.

With kind regards from Benin  
Astrid Toda