

work report
on the construction of one building and toilets for the secondary school of Assodè
January 21st, 2022

On May 30th, after a detour to the project in Erokoya, we drove on to Assodè in the north of Benin to start work there. The journey took 11 hours as we were traveling with our whole construction team. The people of Assodè waited till late in the night for our arrival to prove how excited they were that construction work would start. After the welcome, all we longed for was to stretch out and sleep.

The next morning we met with the population at 8 a.m. for the general assembly. When we wanted to read the contract, the people told us that they had already discussed the contract several times and cited all the tasks that they had to fulfill. They agreed. The official vote was taken immediately and then preparations for the start of construction began.



Sand was already on the construction site. We bought some smaller logs in the village and boards in Ouaké. While we were constructing the batter board for the building, the chairman of our NPO left with the person in charge of material supplies and an iron bender to explore the shops which sold cement and iron in Ouaké. The quality of the iron bars they found in Ouaké was not good. So they ended up driving to Djougou. There they bought the iron bars. Transport was a bit expensive but at least we had good

quality. Cement was supplied by a shop in Ouaké, but during the project we changed suppliers.



Water procurement was another issue as the area's public water supply was broken.



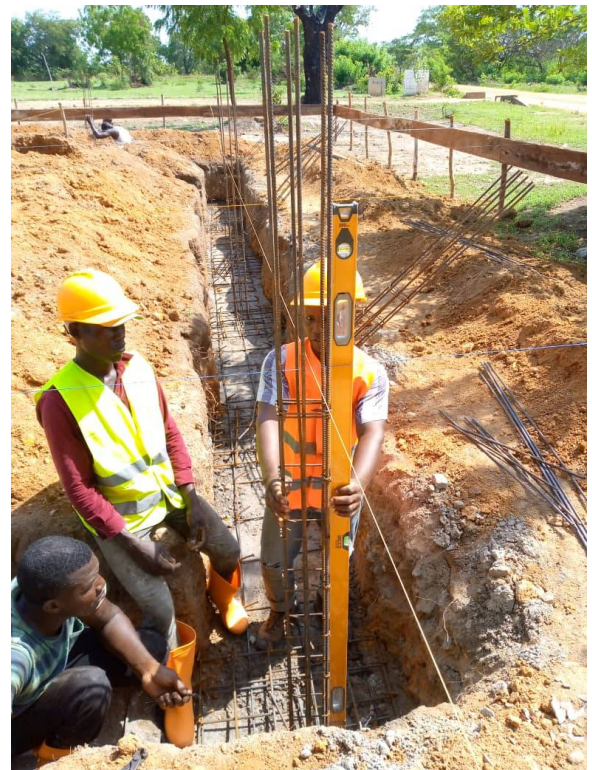
The people of Assodè had formed groups that took turns to dig the foundation trenches.



The iron bars are delivered.



The foundation trenches were dug in just 2 days. After the trenches were leveled, the first layer of reinforced concrete was poured. The pillars were incorporated and aligned on this.



The foundation walls were erected on the second layer of concrete. The electricians laid the grounding.



The population helped diligently and carried the blocks to the trenches.

The lower iron anchor was cast and the walls were built on top of it.



The pillars on the porch are poured.

Some people from Assodè started digging the toilet pits and the women immediately filled the classrooms with the extracted sand.





The preparations for the upper iron anchor are made.



And on we go.



The building now has to dry for 4 weeks before the roof can be made.



Timber and roofing sheets will be delivered during this period.



Then the roof truss is constructed

and the roofing sheets are being screwed on.



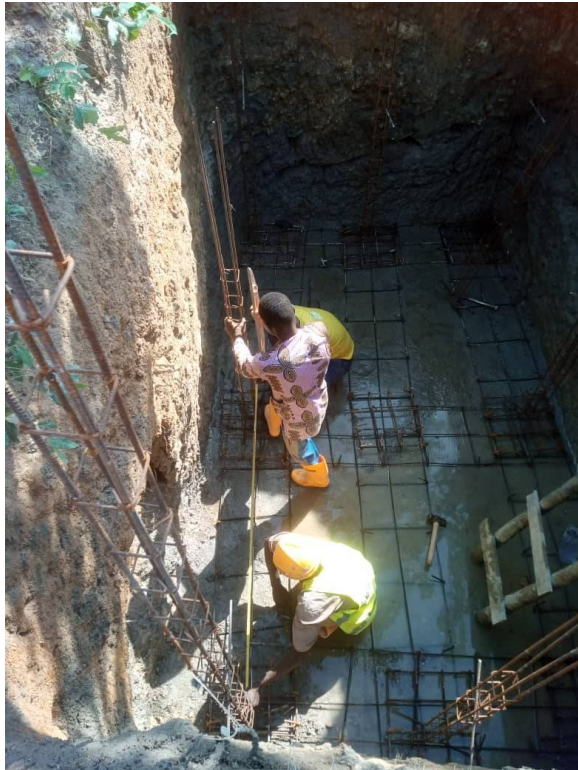
Doors and window shutters are being placed
For the plastering work, the women drew water from the toilet pits.



Rapidly the building was plastered and the floors cemented.



With the water removed from the toilet pits, the masons were able to level the ground and pour the reinforced concrete slab and build the walls on top.





Finally, the painters came to the construction site and enchanted the gray of the concrete with cheerful colors.





I would like to thank the people at Assodè for the pleasant and happy togetherness, our employees for their work in difficult climatic conditions, our driver, to whom we have entrusted our lives over many hundreds of kilometers and who has masterfully solved all difficulties, the members of our two NPOs, the employees of the BMZ and all supporters, especially the members of Humanet e.V.

During our stay in Assodè we acquired a lot of new knowledge. We encountered problems that arose from the solution of another problem. This showed us clearly that any solution to a problem must be thought through a hundred times before it is implemented and that some solutions cannot be limited to a short period of time, that one must take the time to observe the effects and possibly work out additional measures.

Thank you for all these insights we have gained.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Astrid Toda

