

Abomey-Calavi, June 21st 2025

Dear friends and supporters of our work in Benin,

first of all, I would like to thank you all, because without your support for our projects, nothing could be done for the benefit of our children. Thank you so much!

We started 2024 with the completion of the projects 2023: the construction of buildings for the preschool of Koukoulounda, the primary school of Agonmey, and the secondary school of Adjagbo. The inaugurations took place on January 4th, March 22nd, and May 31st, 2024.

As part of the Capacity Development projects, the theme "Let's Buy Local" was implemented for the first time with students at the secondary school of Adjagbo. The theme was explored with the students in three phases: Benin's imports and exports were compared, the economic impact and effects on the labor market were examined, as well as cultural enrichment, the medicinal uses of plants, and local tourism. To solidify and promote the awareness gained, we suggested that the students plan an awareness event for their region. The students invited their parents and, with beautiful and well-prepared artistic performances, created an impressive and impactful event.

For 2024, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development required an ex-post evaluation of our activities. An engineering firm was selected from among five providers. The firm's representatives visited numerous schools and sites built to date, assessing construction quality and the sustainability of the capacity development measures. The report is available at the Bildungswerk Westafrika e3.V..

The commitment of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development concerning the projects 2024 was only granted at the end of July. The contracts had already been prepared, but the signing by the local authorities took still an enormous amount of time. Due to the delay in the timely signing, the Danko preschool project in the municipality of Dangbo was relocated to another area (Tchalade).

1. To close the time gap, we converted an older class room of the secondary school of Adjagbo into a laboratory.



2. We also repaired the roofs of two primary school buildings: one at Kansounkpa Quartier and another one at Calavi Center.





3. We have further developed our ideas regarding the recycling of waste, especially glass bottles.

Mr. Franck Batcho and Mrs. Elizabeth Behanzin traveled to Ghana to contact companies that produce beads from recycled glass bottles. They spent two weeks in the Accra region, visiting several manufacturers and markets. **Based on this information, we have developed a project for which we are seeking funding.** The project description is attached.



In September we were finally able to begin construction of school buildings, projects 2025.

4. Construction of one building holding 2 classrooms, an office, a storage room and toilets for the preschool of Agbagoulè-Kpakpa, municipality of Dassa-Zoumè:

On September 11th, 2024, we traveled to Agbagoulè to meet with the residents of the two villages, Agbagoulè and Kpakpa. In the shade of a large mango tree, we read and discussed the contract. Finally, a vote was taken to implement the contract, and construction began that same day. Contrary to the promises made at the general meeting, the villagers did not help with the construction, except for digging the foundation trenches for the building and the toilet. Despite all the difficulties, the building was inaugurated on January 16, 2025. The school is furnished with tables and chairs donated by Mr. Dietmar Gans and Ms. Roswitha Tertinek.





5. Catholische Primary Sxchool St. Pierre in Sinwe-Lego

At the Catholic Primary School St. Peter's in Sinwe-Lego, we completed a building that the school itself had started. We built the walls up to the gables, made the roof, and completed all the finishing touches. We also constructed a toilet block for the school. The opening ceremony took place on April 1st, 2025.



6. Construction of a building holding four classrooms and toilets for Secondary School 4 of Abomey-Calavi in the district of Aïtchédji.

To support the community's efforts, we built one school building and restrooms for the newly established secondary school. The PTA generously supported the construction, and the students cheered us on with their smiles. The building was opened on May 8th, 2025. The new classrooms are furnished with tables and chairs donated by Dietmar and Roswitha. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these generous donors.



7. Construction of two buildings holding three classrooms each, one of which includes an office and storage room, and toilets for the public primary school of Golo-Djigbé in the municipality of Abomey-Calavi.

This school is the oldest in the district of Golo-Djigbé. Therefore, it is still called Golo-Djigbé Primary School, even though it is located in the village of Yekon-Aga. Due to the availability of our construction teams, the two buildings could not be erected simultaneously. However, the completed buildings are now ready for the children. The opening ceremony is scheduled for July 3rd.



8. Construction of one building holding two classrooms, an office with storage space, and toilets for the preschool of Tchaladé, Ouaké Municipality

Our teams always enjoy traveling to northern Benin, as they consistently receive a warm welcome. The projects are carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The masonry work is complete. The painters are making the final touches. The opening ceremony is planned for June 25th. This school also has tables and chairs, donated by Diemar and Roswitha.



9. Construction of one building holding three classrooms for the primary school of Aïtchédji, Abomey-Calavi Municipality

On May 13, 2024, a storm tore the roof off the shelter of the Aïtchédji Primary School, Group B. To find a solution for the now-homeless students, our NGO secured funding outside of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development program. The association "A Heart for Children" agreed to finance 75% of a building with three classrooms, and a private partner contributed the remaining 25%. We decided to task our young trainees, who had recently received their diplomas, with constructing this building under the supervision of their instructors. The building is currently in the process of being painted, and the opening ceremony is scheduled for July 10th.



10. CD-Projects

- At the primary schools of Agbagoulè, Yekon-Do, Golo-Djigbé, Tchaladé, Saint Pierre and at the secondary school 4 we have raised awareness of waste management, waste separation, plastic and composting.
 - a) To begin with, we invited the teachers to a discussion.
 - b) Hand over of waste bins: green for organic waste, black for everything else.
 - c) Classroom discussions on the waste and plastic problem are held appropriate to age of the students.
 - d) Organizing clean-up events around the schools and encouraging the children to put the collected waste in the correct bins.
 - e) Involving the municipal waste collection service so that residual waste is collected twice a week.
 - f) production of compost from organic waste collected in the organic waste bin.
 - g) Construction of four school gardens.



garden of the
Primary School of
Agbagoule-Kpakpa



- **At the secondary school St. Pierre and the Secondary School 4 in Aïtchédji, we conducted an educational campaign on the topic of “Let’s buy local”.**



- **At the primary school in Amoussenon-Tome**, we repeated the training on the **production of edible mushrooms** with a new instructor, together with women of the village, pupils, teachers of the school and our animators of the environmental projects.



- In Golo-Djigbe, we reorganized and reactivated the women's groups for the production of moringa powder.

11. Surgery and rehabilitation costs are covered by the association "Help-Wir helfen", but we have to provide interim financing.

Kouboura:

before

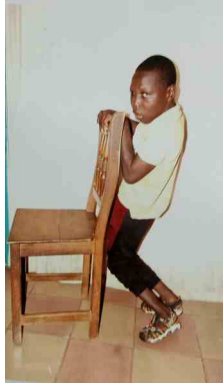


after



Djibril:

before



after



Colombe:

before



after



Richard:

before



after

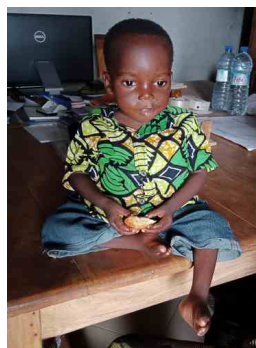


Rogel:

before



after



Pierre:

before



after



12. Scholarships C+D

Secondary School Level:

1. **Faridath Dramane** has already taken the written A-level exam and will take the practical exam on July 26th.
2. **Merveille Nougbohohoue** has met the grade requirements, but her grades are very weak. This has disqualified her from the C+D scholarship.
3. **Khaloud Koudjou** is studying very diligently. She is a credit to us all.

University Level:

1. **Marcos Savi** receives a government scholarship to cover his tuition fees in Civil Engineering. All other expenses are covered by C+D. Marcos is a very promising young man. He is in his second year of studies.
2. **Theudas Tossa** also receives a government scholarship to cover his tuition fees in his major. All other expenses are covered by C+D. Theudas is in his third year and is preparing for his bachelor's degree.
- 2a. **Cédric Yelouassi** also receives a government scholarship to cover his tuition fees in Chemistry for Laboratory. All other expenses are covered by C+D. Cédric is also in his third year and is preparing for his bachelor's degree. **Theudas and Cédric share a C+D scholarship.**
3. **Gratias Koukoubou** is in his second year of specialization and is preparing for his final exams.

All the scholarship recipients are hardworking and an honor for us. We thank Mr. Dietrich Lerche and his wife for supporting these young people and hope that many more will be able to complete their education thanks to these scholarships.

This year we are having difficulty funding these scholarships. For the 2024-2025 academic year, we have only received €2,300 out of the total €6,600 needed.

To ensure optimal use of the funds, it would be helpful if 50% of the total funding were available in August and the remaining 50% in January of the following year. I ask Mr. Dietrich Lerche to take this timeline into consideration.

13. Sponsorships

Erika is preparing for her bachelor's thesis defense.

Divine is in her second year of law school.

We haven't heard from **Krystie**. She doesn't answer our calls, and we don't find her at home when we visit.

Michée has started his studies on communication technology and completed his first year with good results.

Chancelle Batcho was a C+D scholarship recipient at the secondary school level. The scholarship program for university-level students is full, so she has joined our mentorship program. She wants to become a registered nurse.

Jonas Adokpe was also a C+D scholarship recipient at the secondary school level. Since there were no openings at the university level, he was accepted into our mentorship program. He is studying hydraulics and plumbing.

Mathias is preparing for his bar exam defense, which is scheduled for June 2025.

Nelly successfully defended her Master's thesis with distinction on June 18, 2024, achieving a grade point average of 17. She is leaving our scholarship program.

Honarine is a diligent 9th-grade student at the public high school in her region.

Blanda successfully defended her Bachelor's thesis on June 13, receiving the grade "very good" and achieving a grade point average of 17.

Richard is a third-year civil engineering student. He is currently preparing for his Bachelor's thesis defense, which is scheduled for the week of June 16.

The NPO "Actions de Solidarité" held its general assembly on May 29th. This year, the election of the new board was on the agenda:

President: Benoit Ahlonsou

Secretary: Moise Loko

Treasurer: Romain Gandji

Women's Representative: Bernadette Sokenou

Advisor: Takpa Julien

Thank you so much for accompanying me throughout the year.
Astrid Toda