

1993 – 2018

25 years



Astrid single-handedly on the construction site of the Primary School of Makoko Waterside in Lagos, Nigeria, a school for Beninese economic refugees.



Astrid amidst the team of the NPO at the kick off of the construction work at the Public Secondary School of Dedome, Community of Kpomasse, Benin
Bildungswerk Westafrika e.V. (since 2002)
Ecole de Solidarité (since 2009)



The school building of Makoko Waterside is finished.



The building of the Public Primary school of Dekanme is ready for the children to move in.

25 years

1994 – 2019

More pushed than gone, the big adventure started in Nigeria.

It was supposed to be the construction of a single school building to prove that any woman can achieve her goal on her own if the will is strong enough. The project should be an example of what an open financial report could look like. The idea of correcting unequally distributed opportunities spurred the work. . . At the end of the school construction of Makoko all debts were paid off. There was even money left !! The question was what to do with it. It could not be returned, because there was no way to know to who. It could not be use by myself, that would have been misappropriation. ? ? ? Another school building was the only correct answer to this question.

The exclusion from diplomatic life was one of the consequence of this commitment. Existential fears have sometimes robbed me of sleep. But . . . my friends supported me, gave me a roof over my head, fed me, discussed with me, assisted me with words and deeds, shared with me the dream of better opportunities for children.

25 years later :

**40 projects – 62 school buildings – 192 classrooms – 14.960 places for students
added up by 1 health center and 1 study hall**

**25 children have been and are sponsored by private sponsors, 5 to learn
handcrafts through on the job training, 20 in our program for gifted children of
poor families.**

**New program: in case of physically handicapped children, the disability is
surgically eliminated or alleviated in cooperation with the German NPO
"Help- Wir Helfen e.V."**

**I thank all of you who accompanied me on this journey and
gave your blessings for this work.
Without you, I would have been lost.
Please, stay at my side.**

Yours, Astrid