

## **1st work report**

on the construction of one building holding 3 classrooms and toilets for the public elementary school Plateau Community of Abomey-Calavi

On October 16, 2019, we met with the population and the members of the PTA in one of the three classrooms of the primary school Plateau for the General Assembly. People were excited. They had been trying to find help for their cause for a long time. They finally felt that they had reached their destination. We read and explained the contract. "We are ready for anything", people assured us. I urged them not to take their tasks and duties lightly. The end of the year is already in sight and we wanted to finish by then. "Just take the picture so that people at your home can see that we are ready," asked those present.



When I got to the school the next day, I saw that the chief of the ward and some people were arguing. Land reform was in full swing here in Godomey, too. The chief wanted to use the construction of the school building to force people to move who had settled on the school premises. I put an end to the bickering by telling everyone that we would come back if their problem found a solution. Our association cannot be the cause of displacement. When I started to leave, people held me. We had been looking for help for so long and now everything should be over! Finally it was decided to construct the building

opposite the other building. That would be a bit narrow and the land there is sloping and very sandy. We measured the proposed site to see if there was enough space. Every meter was considered. After all, everything was fine. We marked the location of the building. People organized themselves to dig the foundation trenches. The land occupiers were also involved.



October is the short rainy season here in the south of Benin, but it brought very heavy rains in 2019. Digging the foundation trenches resembled Sisyphean work.



Finally we decided to do the foundation in pieces.



In addition, we have incorporated a particularly strong iron anchor with 14 mm iron into the base.



On top of it the foundation walls were erected.



Because of the slope, we had to incorporate a second additional iron anchor in the foundation before the normal lower iron anchor could be cast, which determines the top edge of the foundation. The walls of the building itself were built on this iron anchor.



The foundation on the side of the veranda was being made at that time. A small iron anchor was drawn into the building below the window openings.

After the walls reached the lintel and the pillars were erected on the veranda, the upper iron anchor was poured.



The wall of the so-called flowerbeds, which protect the building from erosion, was provided with a correct foundation and connected to the building by an iron anchor.



November 13<sup>th</sup>, the walls of the building are finished!  
Bravo for our construction team!

The toilets were another problem. At a depth of 2 m we had reached groundwater. The concrete foundation of the toilets had to be sealed with a lot of effort to protect the groundwater.



A foundation had to be made for the staircases as for them to be able to withstand sand and erosion.

While the walls were drying the students filled the new classrooms with sand.



When the walls of the building were dry, the roof was made and the shutters placed.



Then the masons started to plaster the walls.



Finally, the painters enchanted the building and the graphic artist painted the logo.

