

**Project for the construction of a building
to house the processing equipment shea nuts into shea butter
at ASSODE**



Background

In 2021, we had built a school building for the public secondary school of Assodè and conducted awareness sessions at the school as well as in the village, as part of our “All girls in school” program. This time, the NPO Actions de Solidarité has decided to construct a building that will contain the equipment necessary for the exploitation of shea nuts for the benefit of the inhabitants of the small village of Assodè.

Assodè is a remote village located in the commune of Ouaké, which has approximately 80,000 inhabitants, in the north-west of Benin in the department of Donga. The main reason for this project is to support the women of the

village and more particularly the girls, who do not go to school or drop out after a few years.

Two main reasons explain this situation:

- First, the economy is undiversified and centred on cotton. The village being remote, **the standard of living of the population is very low** and most of the expenditure of the population is necessary for subsistence. It seems more important in the eyes of most inhabitants to make children work, as soon as possible, to generate additional income rather than for them to go to school.
- Secondly we noticed that **some young girls prostituted themselves**, simply to buy a meal, which, again, prevents them from concentrating on their training.

To improve the economic situation of the population of the village, **a few years ago the government of Bénin offered machines to process shea nuts into shea butter**. However, it was left to the population to construct a shelter that would protect the machines and ensure their proper operation.

The problem:

due to lack of sufficient financial means, no shelter was created and the machines were never used; they are abandoned.

Our solution:

We propose to construct a building to house the equipment.

This project should allow the population to use all the machines provided by the government to produce shea butter which can then be sold. And we hope that the income will serve the well-being of the families of Assodè, especially to ensure the integrity of their girls.