

**Preschool of Agbagoulè,
District of Lema,
Municipality of Dassa-Zoumé,
Republic of Benin**

From Cotonou we drive about 200 km on the arterial road north past Godomey, Abomey-Calavi, Allada and Bohicon to Dassa-Zoumé. Dassa-Zoumé is the southernmost of the six municipalities in the department “Collines”. The whole region is characterized by rocky hills. The enormous blocks of granite inspire the imagination of huge mountain ranges in ancient times.

Once in Dassa-Zoumé, after passing the Catholic Church, we take the road to the right that leads to Hotel Jeco. At the end of the street again we turn right. This street leads to the market of Dassa-Zoumé. On the right side of the road the rocks rise to the hills. With astonishment we see houses that are built there on the rock niches. - At the market we turn left and cross the railway tracks. We remain on this red clay road until we reach Erokoya, where, in 2021, we constructed a building for the local preschool. When people see our Nissan, they run up and greet us happily. A homely feeling rises in our hearts. After a short break we continue, crossing a little river, turning right at the T-junction and in only a short time we arrive to the village of Agbagoulè.

On the right side of the street we find the public elementary school of Agbagoulè with its two groups. The students are housed in four solid buildings, each holding three classrooms. The government of Benin has taken up the cause of setting up pre-schools as for the children, especially children in the villages, can become familiar with the French language before they enter the first grade of primary education. Without the pre-schools, starting school is very difficult as the children speak at home but their own local language. Since 2012, Agbagoulè Preschool has been registered under number 2864/MEF/MEMP/DC/SGM/DPP/SP of October 11, 2012. For political reasons, a building was erected for this pre-school in a remote location, which the village communities never accepted because it is too far from home. They applied for the preschool to be moved to the elementary school property, which was approved. This has the advantage that the older children can take their younger siblings to school and bring them home again. At lunchtime, the little ones can be taken care of at the canteen. But now a new building is needed. The farmers want to use the old building as a warehouse for their harvests and as a meeting room.

The district leader and the parents ask us to construct a building for their children with friendly classrooms and toilets similar to the one in Erokoya. We plan

1. the construction of a building holding two (02) classrooms plus an office for the principal and storage space for teaching materials. The classrooms are decorated with large murals, each with a playhouse and a closet. The principal's office will have a closet and the storage space two shelves.
Cost: € 39,000
2. the construction of a toilet block with four (04) cubicles
Cost: € 6,000
3. the set up of playground equipment in the yard of the pre-school (slide, carousel and swing)
Cost: € 2,000

4. Personnel: chief of the construction site € 229 x 6 = € 1,374, technician € 305 x 6 = € 1,830
total rounded up € 3,204

5. costs of inspection: € 4,000

6. Additionally we propose to build an 8-cabin toilet block for the elementary school, since the children of the two primary school groups only have 4 toilet cubicles at their disposition
Cost € 8,000

The total cost of this project is € 62,204.

25% of the total cost is €15,551