

Work Report:

Educational activity to strengthen environmental awareness at the Secondary School 1 of Golo-Djigbé



The Secondary School 1 of Golo-Djigbé has 2,025 students from 7th to 13th grade.



The school is located in southern Benin (department of Atlantic) in the town of Abomey-Calavi, not far from the road that leads past Akassato to Dassa, a region well-known in the country for its granite mountains. The school is located in the village of Golo-Djigbé, known for its large market. The high school is in close proximity to the primary school of Golo-Misébo, a school which was also supported by Actions de Solidarité. This gives children of the area access to schooling from 1st to 13th grade.

The NPO Actions de Solidarité works in several areas;

- o Construction of solid school buildings for public schools
- o Support for women's independence, in particular through training courses on production such as moringa, mushrooms, etc.,
- o Funding medical surgeries for children in need.
- o Strengthening environmental awareness through educational work in the classroom.

The association that also deals with the impact on the environment has sent its two community service volunteers, Pablo Manceau and Lisa Imbalzano, to the Secondary School 1 of Golo-Djigbé to carry out awareness-raising work in the classes during the months of November and December and to train and organize waste management activities.

According to the agreement with the school management and the entire teaching staff, the volunteers have the permission to carry out three intervention phases during their six-month stay. The first two were scheduled for November and December and the third one for January and February.



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In the first phase, the goal was to help people understand the importance of environmental impacts in our daily lives. The volunteers presented the dangers of plastic from the litter around: plastic bags and bottles.



Plastic bags are a real problem in Benin, being ubiquitous on market stalls, in grocery stores or at itinerant vendors. In order to better adapt to the target audience (7th to 13th grade students), the speakers presented them the music entitled “e ma yon” produced by the music group Vie et Culture. In this song, the artists talk in particular about plastic-related diseases (cancer, infertility, impotence, headaches, skin diseases) and how we can reduce the

consumption of plastic bags in our daily lives (reuse the bags or use more eco-friendly cloth bags)

Next, the speakers take another waste product to discuss on, the plastic bottles. The aim is to better understand the use of this container and to consider how it can be replaced: e.g. with aluminum bottles. In addition, the volunteers show different ways to repurpose the plastic bottle to restore its value, for example, a plastic bottle can be turned into a flower pot, a pen box, a lampshade...



In this first phase, the goal was to inform the students about the dangers they are exposed to by the use of plastic, but also to provide them with knowledge that should help them to be able to act correctly to protect our planet earth as well as their health .