

1st Work Report
(February 5, 2026 to April 30, 2026)

**construction of a building holding 2 classrooms, an office,
storage space, and restrooms
for the Public Preschool of Adjigo
District of Atokolibé
Municipality of Banté
Republic of Benin**

The president of our association, the head of the women's affairs department, and I set off for Adjigo on February 4th. We spent the night in Savalou, as Adjigo is closer to Savalou than to Banté, and consequently arrived in Adjigo in time for the general meeting with the local residents at 10:00 a.m. the following morning. Our construction team had already arrived. The villagers were already gathered. The municipality had sent the head of the technical department to Adjigo. The district head of Bobè was representing the one from Atokolibé. We introduced ourselves and explained the reason for our presence. The people were very pleased that their request for a new preschool building had been granted. We then read and translated the contract. The villagers asked questions about anything they didn't understand. Once all the questions had been answered, a vote was taken on whether the project should be carried out according to the contract's terms. The villagers voted in favor of the project.



After the vote, we inspected the site that had been designated for the new building. There was much discussion, as the various stakeholders (the principal of the primary school, which shares the property with the preschool; the preschool principal; and the village head, who brought up the road planning) couldn't agree. After everyone had expressed their views, the municipal technical director and I jointly decided where the new building should be constructed, taking into account pretty much everyone's opinions.

The villagers provided us with small teak logs for the string frame. In Gouka, the neighboring town, we found boards. As for nails, we had brought them along. We hurried to erect the string frame.



The head of the technical department asked to speak with our young construction team, which is made up of former apprentices of our foremen. They all learned their job for many years on our construction sites and are now foremen themselves. The head of the technical department took on a fatherly role and asked the young men to concentrate on their work and not to respond to the advances of the young women and girls. A group of capable young men would be quite an attraction in this village. Many a girl would be willing to choose a husband from among them.



The first building materials arrived towards evening.



sand



iron rods

cement



gravels



The next day, the ironbenders began to produce the iron reinforcements. The bricklayers shaped building blocks. Whenever rain threatened, the freshly laid blocks were covered.



The villagers began digging the foundation trenches for the building.



Once the foundation trenches were excavated, they were widened at the areas where the pillars were to be installed. The slope in the ground was leveled with steps. Then the double foundation slab with the iron reinforcement was poured and the pillars were installed.



The foundation walls were built on the foundation base. When the walls reached the grass surface, the lower iron anchor was laid.



Alles gut verhakt?



Der untere Eisenanker wurde gegossen



The primary school pupils helped and carried building blocks to the building.



Once the walls reached the height of the windows, the small iron anchor was cast below the window openings. The walls were then built up to the window lintel on top of this anchor.



The veranda pillars were cast. The upper iron anchor was prepared and then cast in one piece.



The walls were raised by four rows of bricks on top of the upper iron anchor, and the iron anchor below the roof was then cast on top of it. The gables were built on this fourth iron anchor.



Finally, the ends of the pillars were cast.



Gable celebration for our workers



The ramp was built after the festival.



The small concrete benches and tables for outdoor break times were also made.



Everything had to dry for a month before the roof could be done.

The villagers had difficulty understanding why a toilet pit needed to be dug. It took a lot of persuasion before they agreed to dig a 4-meter-deep pit.



After the walls in the pit were plastered with Sikalite and Sikalatex, the pit was closed.



The toilet cubicles were built above them.



Finally, the carpenters arrived at the construction site.

The cut logs have been delivered.



They were first treated with insect repellent, then the crossbeams were built.



The longitudinal beams were nailed on to the cross beams and finally the roof was covered.



The toilet block also got its roof.



We thank all helpers and supporters, especially the donor who contributed 25% of the total costs. We also thank the staff of the BMZ and Dr. Kämmerling, who prepared the grant application for us with the BMZ.

The bricklayers will soon return to the construction site to begin the plastering work.

With best regards
Astrid Toda