

1st Work Report
(January 8/20, 2026 to June 4, 2026)

**construction of two buildings, holding four classrooms each,
toilets, and water supply
for the public secondary school in Bobè
Bobè County
Municipality of Banté
Republic of Benin**

On January 8, 2026, we met in Bobè to discuss the project of water supply with the contracted company. It promised to drill for water the following week.



On January 20, 2026, the president of our association, the head of the women's affairs section, and I set off for Banté. We spent the night in Banté to be in Bobè in time for the general meeting with the local residents at 10:00 a.m the following day. The villagers were already gathered. The regional leader, the king, and other respected figures of the village were already present. We introduced ourselves and explained the reason for our presence. The people were very pleased. 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 implemented according to the contract's terms. The villagers voted in favor of the project.



After the vote, we inspected the proposed construction site and asked the people to prepare the area.

We inspected and discussed the various options for storing the building materials. One storage room was too far away, another too small. The idea arose to build a corrugated iron storage shed on the construction site.

The next day we returned to Bobè to install the buildings. Where the new buildings were to be erected, only the shrubs and grasses had been superficially cleared. We asked the local residents to remove the roots by the following day.

Then the chairman, the ironbender, and the formwork carpenter set out to find the first materials. Teak logs and formwork boards arrived before dark. Buying cement and iron proved more difficult. But we were lucky. We met a vendor who had just ordered 50 tons of cement and several tons of iron. Both were on their way from Cotonou to Banté. We bought both and immediately asked the vendor to order another 50 tons of cement. So we hurried to buy corrugated iron sheets as for the shelter could be built in time to hold the 50 tons of cement.



The string frame was set up



The population began digging the foundation trenches, which required a great deal of strength. The ground was very hard.



The ironbenders produced the iron inserts.



Bricks were made



Once the foundation trenches had been dug, they were widened at the places where the pillars were to be implanted.



The first layer of concrete was poured, and the pillars were aligned on this base.



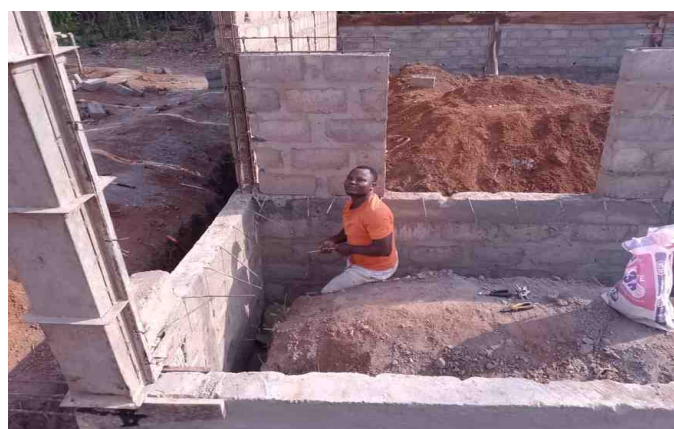
The second layer of concrete was poured on top, on which the foundation walls will then be built.



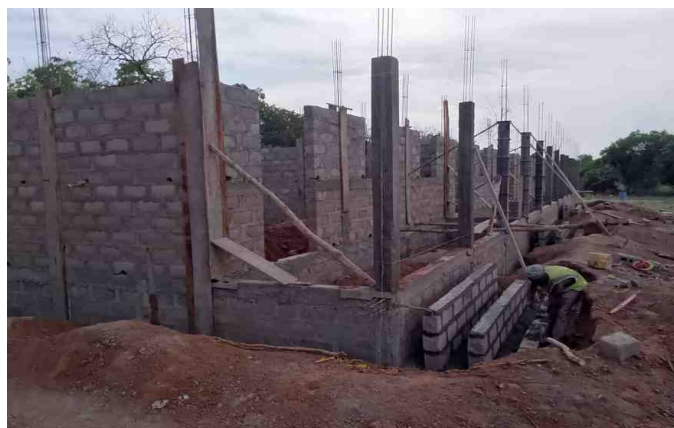
Soon the foundation walls had reached the grass level and the lower iron anchor was poured.



A small iron anchor was cast below the window openings. Work on the second building proceeded at a slower pace. The electricians installed the grounding.



The pillars on the veranda were poured. The staircases were built.



We were incredibly lucky and managed to intercept a container of asbestos-free eternit roofing sheets before they were unloaded. After a discussion with the construction company for which the sheets were intended and the truck driver, the truck with the container continued directly to Adjigo and Banté. Since the truck couldn't navigate the poor road to Bobè, the roofing sheets were transferred to a smaller truck in Banté.



While we were busy with the operation “roofing sheets”, the upper iron anchor on the building was prepared and cast in one piece.



The walls were then raised by 4 rows of building blocks.



After that, the last iron anchor was cast under the roof and the gables were erected.



After the ends of the pillars had been cast and the building blocks laid below the roof, the gable festival was celebrated with great joy.



Finally, the ramp, the staircases and the protective walls against erosion were built.



The water tower was also constructed.



The two buildings had to dry for a month before the roof could be made. During this time, the residents were supposed to fill the classrooms with sand. Generally speaking, the local population was very reluctant to come to the construction site. People came to fetch water, but helping with the construction wasn't really their thing. Eventually, we only gave them water in exchange for labor. We talked to the people throughout the entire construction phase and asked the important people in the area for help. But when our construction team left the site, nothing happened at all. So we focused on the other construction projects first. When we stopped coming, the people of Bobè became worried and finally started filling the classrooms.

Finally, the carpenters arrived and built the roofs. The beams were coated with insect repellent and the crossbeams were constructed.



The longitudinal beams were attached onto the crossbeams.



The roofs were covered.



I send a heartfelt "thank you" to Germany and to the two partner schools here in southern Benin, as well as to the Erft Gymnasium. In 2025 and 2026, we held two sponsored runs at the secondary schools in Gbetagbo and Adjagbo. The Erft Gymnasium launched its sponsored run in September 2025. The proceeds from these three school activities covered 25% of the total costs for the construction of one building.

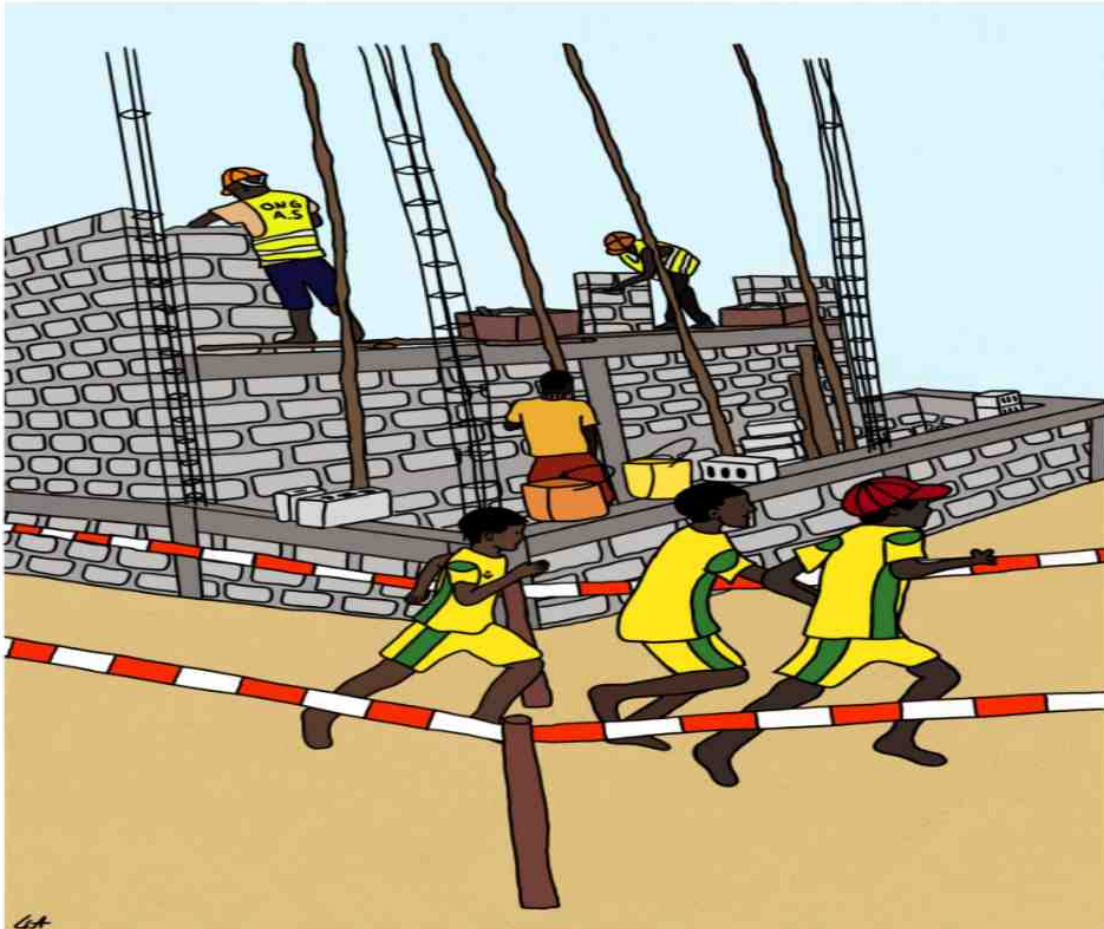
The 25% of the second building were donated by a well-known female athlete who wishes to remain anonymous.

The remaining 75% were, as usual, financed through the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) using German taxpayers' money. I thank all these donors, who I don't know!

With gratitude
Astrid Toda

Sponsored Run at Gbetagbo High School
Republic of Benin
A campaign "I share my happiness with you"

Course aux Dons 2025



CEG Gbetaabo

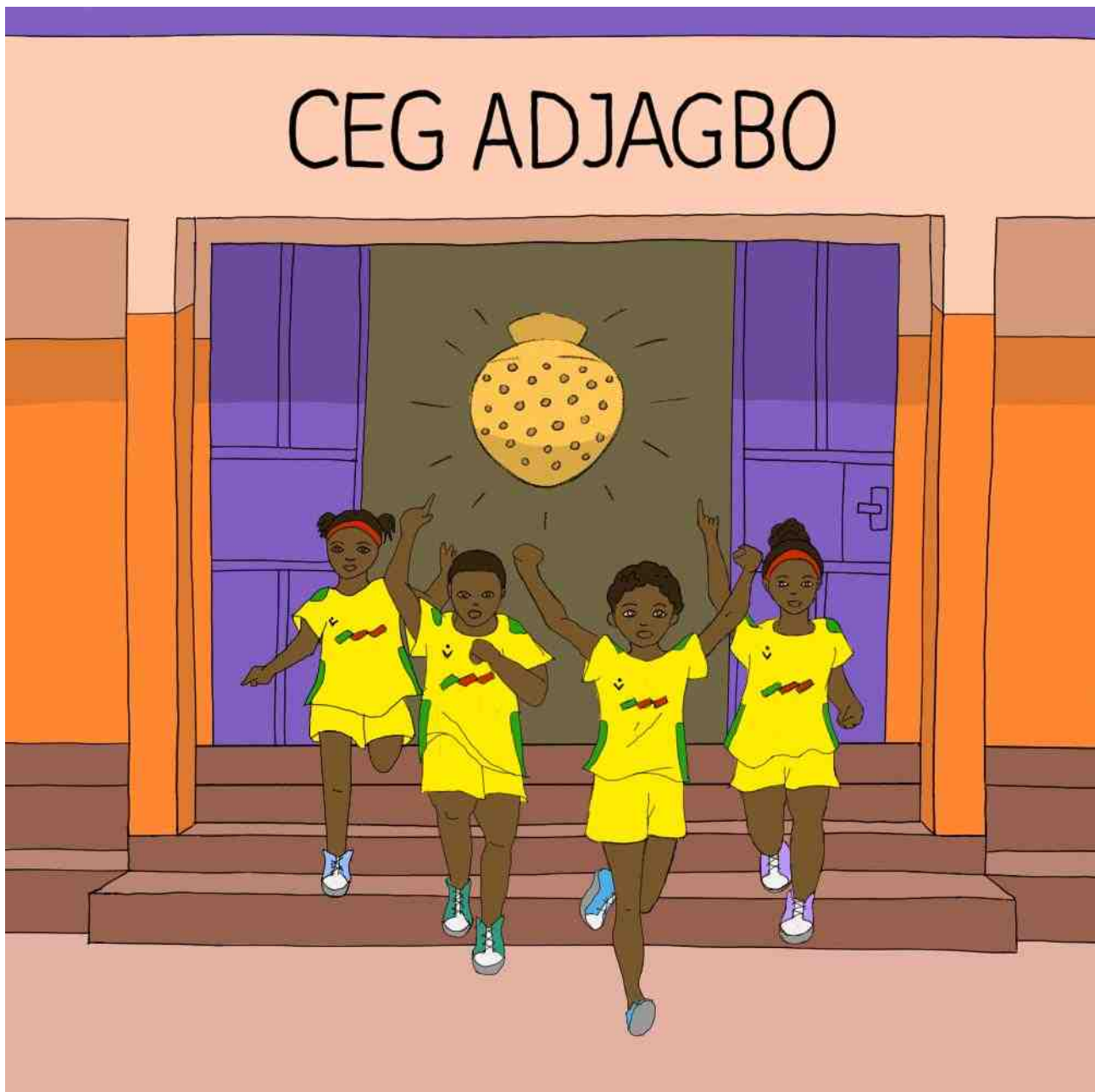
On May 31st, 2025, the first sponsored run will take place **at 9:00 a.m. on the sports field of the Gbetagbo High School** in the district of Akassato of the city of Abomey-Calavi.

The students of the Gbetagbo High School want to express their solidarity with another school in the municipality of Bante that does not have a single permanent school building.

They are setting a sign of solidarity and brotherhood with all other children of Benin and hope that other children will follow their example.

Their slogan:
It is more fun to be happy together than alone.

UNE ACTION
(A Campaign)
DE PARTAGE DE BONHEUR
(I share my happiness with you)
Course aux dons 2026
(Sponsored Run 2026)



PARTAGE AVEC LE CEG BOBÈ
(SHARES WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL OF BOBE)