

1st Work Report
(December 3, 2025 to February 28, 2026)

**Construction of one building holding 2 classrooms, an office,
storage space, and restrooms
for the Public Preschool of Kadolassi
Badjoudè County
Municipality of Ouaké
Republic of Benin**

On December 3rd, 2025, we met with the local residents at 10:00 AM for the general assembly. The population arrived a little late. After the usual greetings, the contract was read aloud and translated. The residents asked questions, which we answered. Finally, we reiterated all the points that directly affected the residents and asked if they understood their responsibilities in this project. The residents assured us that they were well aware of their duties. Therefore, they voted in favor of the contract coming into effect. With that, the construction phase began.



Afterwards, we inspected the proposed building site. There was some further discussion, as the initially planned space was too small for the building. We also checked the designated storage space for building materials and the workers' sleeping quarters.

Since our construction team had already arrived in Kadolassi the previous evening, our site supervisor had already prepared the first formwork boards and small teak logs. While the chairman and the head ironworker set off to buy cement and iron bars, I began to erect the string lines framework together with the bricklayers and carpenters.



The next day, work got into full swing. Cement and iron arrived.



Sand was delivered. The women brought water to the construction site.



The men immediately began the excavation work.



The bricklayers began to manufacture building blocks, and the ironworkers prepared the iron inserts.



Once the foundation trenches for the building had been dug, the masons widened the areas where the “elephant feet” of the pillars would be placed.



The iron reinforcements for the foundation and pillars were incorporated into the first layer of concrete.



A second layer of concrete was poured over this, and the walls were built on this reinforced foundation.



From that moment on, the walls grew as if by magic.



The lower iron anchor was cast, and the walls of the building were erected upon it.



The small iron anchor below the window openings was prepared and cast.



And on we went: The walls soon reached the window lintel. The veranda pillars were cast. Then the upper iron anchor was cast in one piece.



The walls were then raised up to the iron anchor below the roof. The last iron anchor was cast and the gables were erected.



After the building was finished, the ramp, the staircases and the protective wall against erosion were also completed.



The building had to dry for a month before the roof could be put on.

Meanwhile, the toilets were built. After the villagers had dug the toilet pit, the foundation was laid and the iron for the pillars was inserted.



Then the walls were built.



The toilet pit was plastered with Sikalite and Sikalatex. It was then sealed. The cubicles were built on top of it.



In addition, the small tables and benches for break time were built from concrete.



Finally, the waiting was over and the building's walls were thoroughly dry. The carpenters arrived to Kadolassi to put on the roof.

The cross ties have been made.



And soon the roof was finished.

I thank all our friends for continuing to support our schools despite the difficult economic situation.

From the bottom of my heart!

Astrid Toda