

1st Work Report
(December 5, 2025 to March 10, 2026)

**Construction of one building holding 4 classrooms, an office,
storage space, and toilets
for the Public Preschool of Wakou Tebo
Oroukayo Governorate
Municipality of Kouandé
Republic of Benin**

We arrived in Wakou Tebo in the night on December 4, 2025. The villagers had made no preparations, having disbelieved the headmistress's announcements. Too many organizations had pledged their help without meaning it. They had never ventured to this remote village a second time. Therefore, the people were surprised to see us arrive with the entire construction crew, water barrels and wheelbarrows. They hurriedly set up makeshift sleeping quarters for the workers. Once everything was settled, the NPO's chairman, the women's representative, and I drove to Kouandé and checked into a small hotel.

The following day at 10 a.m., we arrived punctually and refreshed from a good night's sleep at Wakou Tebo for the general assembly. The villagers were already there, with benches and chairs set up under the trees. The mayor of Kouandé was also present. We had two interpreters, one for the Bariba population and one for the Poehl. The agreement was read aloud as usual, but this time the mayor took the lead and explained it emphatically. He demonstrated that he truly knew the agreement and agreed with it. When questions were asked, we were allowed to answer them. Afterward, a vote was taken.





The schoolchildren held up signs with welcome messages.

After the meeting, we gathered the essentials (planks, teak logs, and nails) so we could build the framework. The chairman and the ironworker set out to find cement and iron rods. Cement proved difficult to come by, but luckily a shop in Kouandé had ordered 50 tons, and the delivery was already on its way. So they bought the 50 tons and ordered the same amount again. As for iron, they had to travel all the way to Perma to find some. The mayor offered his help with the buying of sand and gravel. So somehow everything was sorted out more quickly than expected.

At the building site, we discovered that we first had to burn the ground to kill termites. After that, the string frame was marked out.



Sand und Kies wurden geliefert



Iron rods were delivered



Since there was no space in Wakou Tebo where we could store our materials, we decided to build a corrugated iron shed.



The local population immediately began excavation work. The soil proved to be very hard and crystalline, consisting of "stones" composed of many small crystals. The men were highly motivated and persistent.



The women brought water.



We had hired a company to drill for water. When the drilling came back negative, the people disappeared. We tried to track them down, but ultimately we were unsuccessful. During this time, the local residents supplied us with water from an open spring, which they transported by the means of a tricycle.



The bricklayers made building blocks and the ironworkers made the iron inserts.



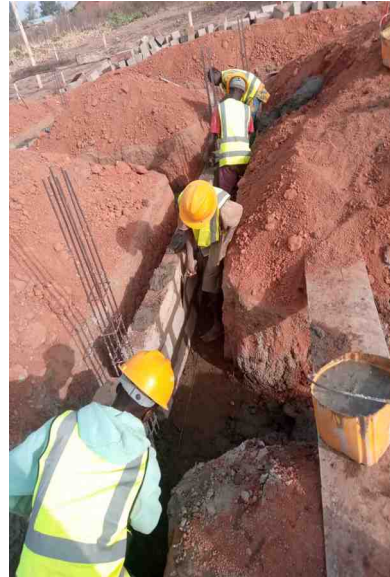
Once the foundation trenches were excavated, reinforced concrete was poured as a foundation base and the pillars were aligned.



The second layer of concrete was poured on top. The walls were then erected on the foundation.



The next day, the walls had already reached the height of the lower iron anchor,



the lower iron anchor was cast



The walls continued to grow up to the small iron anchor below the window openings.



The walls soon reached the window lintel. The upper iron anchor was cast.



The walls were raised, and the last iron anchor below the roof was poured. The gables were then erected on top of this.



The ends of the pillars were cast and the small walls below the roof were built.



Finally, the ramp, the stairs and the protective wall against erosion were built.



While the building walls were drying, the toilets were built.



After the toilet pit was plastered with Sikalite and Sikalatex, it was sealed and the toilet building was erected over it.



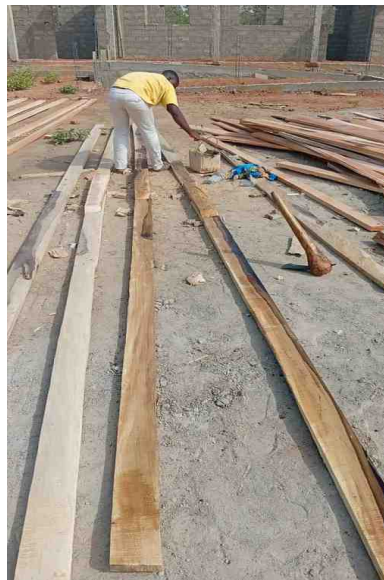
A shelter was built next to the building where the children can do their homework in the evenings by the light of a solar spotlight.



The carpenters have arrived.



The cut planks were transported to the construction site and treated with insect repellent.



The crossbeams were built, the longitudinal beams were laid, and the roofing panels were screwed on.



The roof was finished in no time.



I thank everyone who is accompanying us on this project.
Astrid Toda