

# Annual Kick-Off Site Visit, 2015-2016

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## Introduction

This year's 2015-2016 school year begins our second cycle of the Education4All program, since the completion of our first cycle from 2007-2014. Following reflections and discussions between REJED Togo (le Réseau des Jeunes pour le Développement-Togo) and its partners, as well as donors from around the world, it was determined to be in the best interest of the community to continue supporting education. For this school year, support was once again provided to girls in level CP2 (the equivalent of grade 2) across the 5 schools previously covered by our program: Liyiétielou, Namaré Centre, Nandjak, Tchankounkong, and Bouyème. It is in this context that a site visit was conducted from November 10 to 17, 2015 to the community of Namaré, in order to bring school supplies to the students of these schools.

## Site Visit Proceedings

The objective of the visit was to:

- provide support to the girls in CP2 at the beginning of their school year
- to bring educational materials to all the students in this first cycle at the aforementioned schools
- to exchange with local authorities (District Leaders, teachers, parents, local development groups, etc.) on the different needs for this upcoming cycle.

This report describes the site visit and its results.

## School Kit Delivery

For this school year, the Education4All program was able to support 211 girls in level CP2 across all 5 schools. The school kit for one girl contained:

- ✓ A reading book
- ✓ A maths book
- ✓ 4 notebooks (100 pages each)
- ✓ 1 blue pen
- ✓ 1 ruler
- ✓ 1 eraser
- ✓ 1 pencil
- ✓ 1 pencil sharpener
- ✓ 1 pack of pencil crayons



School fee subsidies were paid for the girls enrolled in Catholic School, as they continue to charge tuition fees throughout Togo. First Aid kits were equipped in each school, typically containing rubbing alcohol, cotton, gauze, acetaminophen, medical tape, anti-malarials, iodine, and de-worming medication, and teachers benefited from teaching materials.

Thanks to your support for these girls, several of the neediest boys also received a few school materials. The REJED team also toured the schools to inquire about quality education and the well being of children.

## Communicating with Local Authorities

The REJED-Togo team held a meeting with the Director of each school. The Directors all expressed their joy at the continuation of this second cycle of program, as many students still have difficulties accessing educational materials in time for the school year. The support of REJED and its partners was therefore timely. The Directors reiterated the need to organize additional tutor courses in order to help students continue on to the next academic level.

The Directors confirmed that the Education4All program has brought opportunities, and REJED noticed the presence of a large number of girls in the classroom, as well that girls are outnumbering boys in many classes. This is a great outcome, but unfortunately the large number of children in each class means teachers encounter difficulties in following up with all of them. Splitting classes in

two is a solution with its own implementation problems due to the limited number of teachers and the lack of infrastructure (classrooms) to accommodate students.



It was often mentioned that lifestyle conditions for teachers in the community have improved. The Directors and teachers successfully submitted a grievance for the implementation and development of an AGR (Activités Génératrices de Revenus): a project to increase teacher income and living conditions, especially for those who are volunteer teachers.

### School Visits

A tour of each school allowed the REJED team to inquire about the well being of the students and infrastructure.

The team noted that one part of the Liyiétiélou school building had been destroyed by a tornado, and would need to be reconstructed in order to accommodate students.

At Nandjak and Namaré Centre schools, there was an influx of children this year. This was due to the installation of solar panels at each of these schools by the government, which encouraged several parents to relocate closer to these schools, or to send their children to board nearby and attend one of the schools so as to take advantage of the light for studying at night. The panels will improve the success rate of students, and ideally will encourage solar panels to be installed at all schools. We all hope this will be put into effect sooner rather than later.



### Building A New School

A new school was created in the community of Namaré. It is called Nagbdjoani, and is a public primary school created as a local initiative by parents in response to the distance that separated their local area from the other schools. This new school has fundamental needs, especially in infrastructure. The walls are made of banco (a mixture of dirt and straw), and roofed with straw.



REJED brought some school materials to help the students at this school, and met with the President of the Association of Student Parents who outlined the need to construct better classrooms in order to allow students to study in good conditions.

### Meetings with local development groups in Namaré

REJED-Togo met with the District Leader of Namaré, with whom they discussed the Education4All program and development activities of the community. The intention was to inform him of the implementation of the program's second cycle and to learn of the various events put on by the community for its own development. The District Leader expressed his gratitude to REJED and its partners, thanks to whom he has seen many positive changes emerge in the community. REJED thanked him for his efforts in the community, and reassured him that they would be there to support him during the development of the district of Namaré.

REJED also met with the Coordinator of AGAIB-Savanes, who congratulated them on excellent partner relations towards development projects, notably those with Namaré District. In fact, all projects have been well executed in terms of deadlines set by each organization.

Other anticipated meetings with the Prefect of Cinkassé and the Regional Director of Education did not occur due to the busy schedules of these individuals.

Also, due to the harvest season, other actors in the region who collaborate with REJED, such as the Mothers Club, women's groups, and parent associations were not able to meet during this initial visit.

## Community News

### Development projects in the community

With technical support from REJED, the local Village Development Committee managed to install solar panels in certain key areas with frequent use around the community such as the market, the local public school (Nandjak), the local Catholic school (Namaré Centre), the District Leader's court and its surrounding area, and the local clinic. These solar panels were installed with the support of the Togolese government in their efforts to bring electricity to rural regions.

The clinic in question was also equipped with medical materials and is today functional, much to the joy of the community. This was made possible by the support of AGAIB-Savanes, one of the major partners with REJED-Togo, who also helped to build the clinic.



### Facts of Life

During this site visit, it was reported to REJED that a newborn girl had been abandoned in the brush, and that a couple passing by had heard her cries. The couple took the baby directly to the court of the District Leader who directed them on to the clinic for immediate care. The police then took the baby to Social Services in Dapaong, the capital of the Savanes region, then on to the local SOS Children's Village where she is currently being cared for. This act encourages REJED to continue its presentations on reproductive health and family planning in the area.

## Conclusion

REJED would like to thank all of its partners who contribute from near and far to the implementation and efficiency of the Education4All program.

Finally, a thank you from all of us at Nukoko to those of you who have contributed to this year's 2015-2016 edition of Education4All. Our generous sponsors continue to support our cause, and help to ensure that 100% of individual donations are given directly to our projects.

REJED and Nukoko are always looking to encourage others to join us to support basic education for all! To learn more about our initiatives and how you can get involved, visit us online at [nukoko.org](http://nukoko.org).