



ONG Education et Développement

TERRE RICHE. ESPRIT PAUVRE

2021 Activities Report

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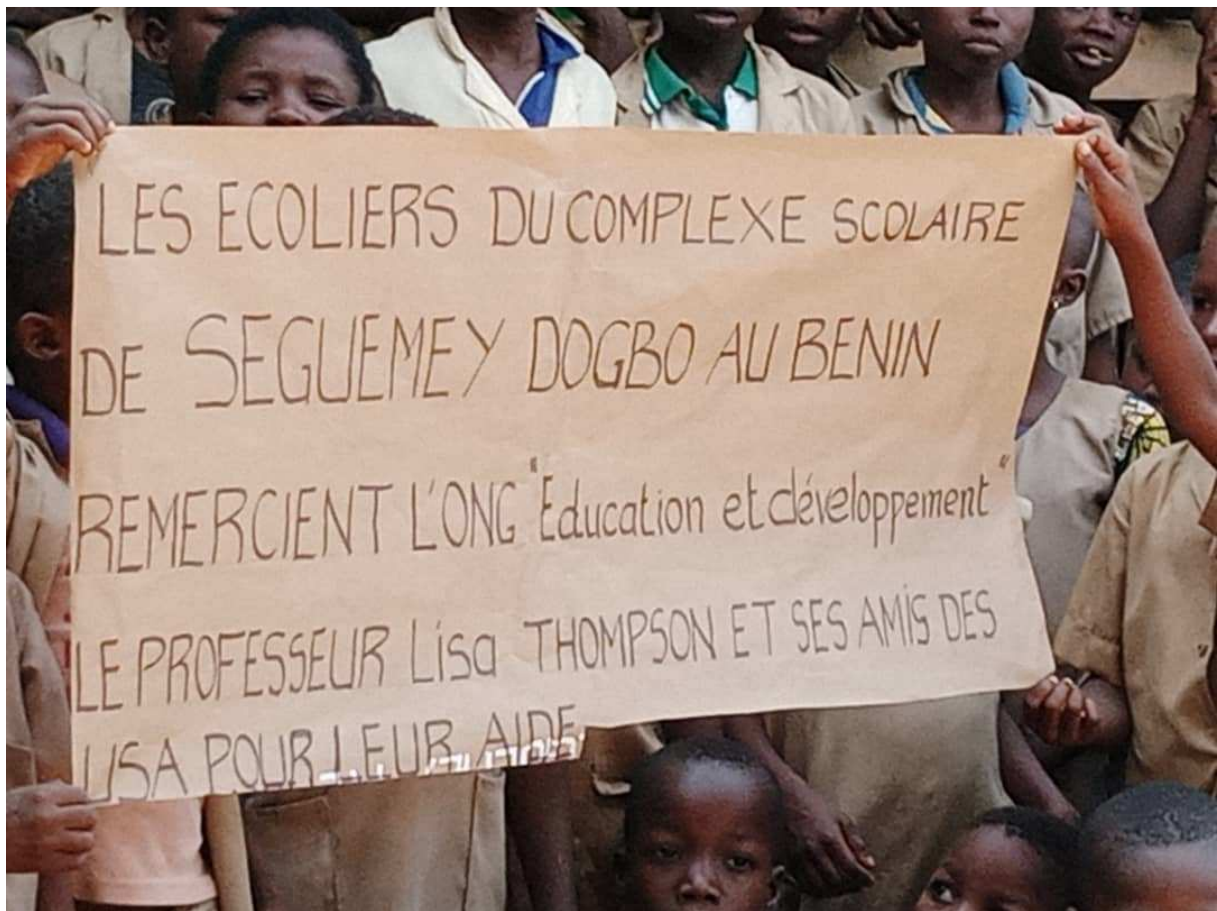
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Introduction

As in 2020, it was in the context of the coronavirus pandemic that our activities for the year 2021 took place. Our Not for Profit Organization, NGO EDUCATION ET DEVELOPPEMENT (ONGED) has been funded mainly by the people of the United States of America, especially Professor Lisa THOMPSON, her relatives and friends. In this report, we will talk about the activities they have enabled ONGED to carry out in 2021 in Benin, a country in West Africa.



Schoolkids of the public primary school of Solouhoué (Benin) are thanking their generous donors (Professor Lisa THOMPSON and NGO EDUCATION ET DEVELOPPEMENT).

1 - The Board of Directors' Activities.

On Saturday December 18, 2021, all the members of ONGED met in an ordinary General Assembly at the headquarters of ONGED, Maison Houessilo Sodji in Kpodaha 1, Arrondissement d'Ayomi, Commune of Dogbo, Department of Couffo, BENIN.

The agenda was:

1- Review of the activity report for the year 2020,

2- Financial report,

3- Projects for the year 2022

1.1- Review of the 2020 activities report

The presentation of the activities report of the year 2020 was made by the secretary general of the ONGED. This report was unanimously approved by all the other participants in this general assembly. It is essentially about our activities in schools and colleges.

1.2- Financial report

For the year 2021, the financial report of ONGED is summarized as follows

Income: 16.584.000 Francs (F) or \$28 610,04 US.

Expenditure: 16.582.000 F or \$28 606,59 US.

Balance: 2,000 F or \$3,45 US

The funds come from the difficult contribution by some members of ONGED and from the collection of funds from Americans in the United States: on the one hand GLOBALGIVING, and on the other hand Professor Lisa THOMPSON and her relatives and friends in the United States.

There is also a fellow Beninese who has donated a lot of money to ONGED. He and Professor Lisa THOMPSON enabled ONGED to carry out its program activities. He is the only Beninese from the Diaspora who helped. He acted anonymously. We thank him and we thank all donors.

The funds were spent to help students in the public and elementary school of Solouhoué, Séguémey, the school complex of Kpodaha and the CEG of Kpodaha in the commune of Dogbo and the CEG1 of Aplahoué in Benin. The interventions of the ONGED concerned the repair of the tables-benches (pupils' desks), the supply of meals to the schoolchildren who do not have a canteen, contribution to the improvement of the meal in some schools with canteen, the payment of the school fees for some pupils and the endowment of a school in water point to facilitate sanitary measures against the pandemic and other diseases, etc.

1.2- Projects for the year 2022

These projects are merged with the future projects below.

2- The Executive Board's activities

In 2021, ONGED has acted mainly in the following areas.

2.1- Assistance in secondary schools (CEG)

2.1.1- At the CEG of Kpodaha

In Dogbo, the students of the CEG of Kpodaha live, like the others, a continuous period of famine triggered around June marked by the soaring prices of basic necessities. There is a massive absence of students. The general supervision of the CEG has noted that some students ask for permission to be absent for invalid reasons. They tried to escape starvation.

Indeed, some students put forward for example "fatigue" or "unspeakable illness" as a reason for their absence. In this context, the Supervisor General asked them individually if they had eaten. Their answer was "No". This means that the famine continues and forces students to be absent.

The famine and the high cost of living-conditions were well explained on December 29, 2021 by the President of the Republic himself before the Members of Parliament at the National Assembly of Benin in these terms:

"The current high cost of living is mainly due to the induced effects of the pandemic. The prices of manufactured goods are soaring as much as those of export products or raw materials, not to mention those of means of transport.

We feel it seriously, each in our own food-basket, even though customs duties, taxes and fees have not increased in our country and, moreover, the performance of our agriculture is remarkable, especially in terms of food production.

This is a sign that the world has entered a cycle of high prices rarely seen. We are victims of a global situation and it is the victorious fight against the pandemic that will mainly help to reverse this trend of high cost of living."

It is in these conditions that ONGED hastened to be at the side of the BEPC candidates. These candidates are confronted with the same food problems and also with the school contribution or school fees. They constantly fear being expelled for the school contribution they have partially paid. Then ONGED paid the rest of their school fees.

ONGED suggested the Board of Directors of the CEG of Kpodaha to see how it can intervene in the realization of the plate or portal for the CEG in order to identify it in the zone. It has financed the research and is waiting for the results. For the CEG1 of Aplahoué, everything has been done.

2.1.2- At CEG1 in Aplahoué

In the former department of Mono, there was only the Collège d'Enseignement Moyen (CEMG) Général d'Aplahoué, which was the largest of all: students from the CEMGs in the communes of Klouékanmey and Djakotomey and elsewhere came there to take the BEPC exams. It was the only examination center in the north of the Mono department. Over time, bad weather has degraded everything in the CEMG, which became CEG1: erosion is ravaging the buildings: the walls and roofs of the classroom modules are ruined, and many of the tables and benches are out of use. The users of the CEG are insecure because of the state of the buildings and the walls used as fences which, moreover, are collapsing in places.



Old façade with crumbling wall of the CEG1 of Aplahoué

To help the CEG1 of Aplahoué, with the financial support by Professor Lisa THOMPSON, ONGED repaired spoiled desks. The Board of Directors of CEG1 put their dynamism to work to support the repair of the desks.



Hundreds of spoiled desks crammed into classrooms



Carpenter hired to repair the desks of the CEG1 of Aplahoué



Carpenters at work repairing the desks



Desks repaired by ONGED with the help of Professor Lisa THOMPSON



Other desks repaired for the CEG1 of Aplahoué (Benin-Afrique)



Part of the desks repaired for the CEG1 of Aplahoué

During the BEPC and Baccalaureate exams, still with the help of Professor Lisa THOMPSON, the ONGED ensured the catering of all the BEPC and Baccalaureate candidates. This was done because it was a time of famine;

and creating a good state of mind for the candidates was good for them to give the best of themselves at these different exams.



Some desks repaired and stored in a classroom at CEG1 in Aplahoué

Considering the advanced state of degradation of the enclosure walls, particularly the wall of the CEG's façade, the board of directors requested that ONGED help them repair everything and ensure safety at the main entrance of the CEG. Moreover, the plate indicating the name and address of the CEG was a little low and block the way of trucks that brought or collected the documents of exams and competitions. This plate was changed and placed in a good place that would no longer hinder the passage of trucks.

Through this entrance, runoff water flooded the CEG and caused havoc during the rains. The board of directors of the CEG has ingeniously designed a good plan to divert this water.

The gate was also spoiled and did not close well, another one was needed. With the dynamism of the Director of CEG1, the ONGED contributed to the making of another metal gate which is of much higher quality than the existing one.



Mason at the service of the ONGED to rebuild the wall of the facade of the CEG1 of Aplahoué



Partial view of the new façade of the CEG1 of Aplahoué



New façade of the CEG1 of Aplahoué

Moreover, the exam period coincided with the time of food crisis. The rain stopped falling. Everything that is sown or planted suffers from the lack of rain. The price of foodstuffs soared. Famine began to occur.

It is in this context that Professor Lisa THOMPSON who well knows the school life in Aplahoué acted by financing ONGED to help all the candidates presented by the CEG1 of Aplahoué.

ONGED and the board of directors of CEG1 of Aplahoué studied the modality of setting the candidates at ease.

As cooking is not allowed in the CEG during the exams, they opted to order food from the ladies who usually sell food to the students. The candidates were given vouchers. They received them and exchanged them for food.



Student candidates displaying tickets received for catering during the end-of-year exams at CEG1 in Aplahoué

But much remains to be done for the CEG1 of Aplahoué ; for example how to put into full operation its computer room, its library and its water supply system. There is no need to say that there are schools that lack water. This is also the case for some public primary school, including the one at Solouhoué.



Food sellers and students in front of the CEG1 of Aplahoué

2.2 : Assistance to public primary schools

2.2.1- Provision of water to the public elementary school of Solouhoué

The authorities of the public elementary school of Solouhoué contacted the ONGED to ask for its help. The major problem of this school was the lack of water. This suggests the dangers to which the users of this school were subjected.



Workers at work for NGO EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT at EPP Solouhoué



Water point provided to the public elementary school of Solouhoué DOGBO



Schoolchildren happily using the water of ONGED at the public school of Solouhoué

Having a recent experience of water supply, and in order to protect pupils and schoolchildren from various diseases, ONGED has provided a water point to the public elementary school of Solouhoué. Like last year, the reason for providing this water is due to the fact that one can wonder how users behave after defecation, for example.

In addition, since handwashing has become an obligation when there is no water, how can school users perform this important "anti-covid-19 barrier gesture"?

It is to answer this question and others that, with the financial support from the Friends of the United States of America, mainly with Professor Lisa THOMPSON, ONGED has provided water to the public primary school of Solouhoué, Ayomi district, Dogbo commune. This is a school with a canteen.

All the schoolchildren are not able to pay the contribution for the canteen. Of course, those who did not pay 25 F per day did not have to eat, but they are the most miserable: they do not even have 25 F (25 F = \$ 0.04318 USD) to spend each day! This is the extreme poverty that the government is trying to remedy. Since then, ONGED has paid for all the students to have food and for the quality of the meals to be assured.



Cooks in the kitchen for the school canteen of Solouhoué



Meal distribution session to schoolchildren



Distribution of nutritious meals to school children at the EPP of Solouhoué



Schoolchildren of the public elementary school of Solouhoué thanking ONGED its main donor, Professor Lisa THOMPSON and her Friends from the USA

These donations made by ONGED have delighted the users. However, their new concern is the collapse of a module of three classes in banco. The students are housed in a construction made of palm branches that do not protect them from bad weather. We are thinking of finding them help for a module of three (3) classrooms in permanent materials.

2.2.2- Construction of a shed and repair of furniture at the public school complex of Kpodaha



Carpenters are building a shed at the Kpodaha school for ONGED



Shed under construction for food sellers at Kpodaha school

The public school complex in Kpodaha told ONGED that it lacked a shed where vendors could stay to sell food to schoolchildren. Rain, sun and debris disturb these vendors. When they are under the trees, animals threaten them with droppings that fall from the trees, soiling the food. So, ONGED built a shed in the establishment.

At the same time, since the school also lacked benches, ONGED financed the repair of all the damaged tables and benches.



ONGED repairs spoiled desks at the school of Kpodaha

This school complex does not have a canteen. To help its schoolchildren until the authorities give them a canteen, ONGED gives them food at times, especially as living has become very expensive since there is a

shortage of food because of the previous drought and especially because of the effects of the covid-19 pandemic.



Canteen created for the school of Kpodaha by ONGED while waiting for the one of the government.



Distribution of meals to schoolchildren at Kpodaha school



Distribution of meals to schoolchildren at Kpodaha Public Primary School Benin



Schoolchildren enjoying the food served



Schoolchildren of Kpodaha school enjoying the food given



Schoolchildren at the Kpodaha public school complex thank their benefactors who are ONGED and its donors, notably Professor Lisa THOMPSON and her supporters from the United States of America

2.2.3- Contribution to the improvement of meals for schoolchildren in the public elementary school of Seguemey

Those in charge of the public primary school at Séguémey learned about the activities of ONGED and began by expressing their needs for the canteen of their school. The eternal problem is that of the contribution of 25 F CFA per student. The food can exist without the necessary condiments to prepare nutritious meals for the children, because of the lack of money. This is the critical situation that prevailed when the call for help was made to ONGED.



Enriched meals ready at the Séguémey school kitchen

When ONGED officials arrived at the school, the director reported on the contributions of the students more than two (2) weeks after the beginning of the school year. He said that out of the 298 students enrolled in his school, only 17 have been able to pay 25 F each.

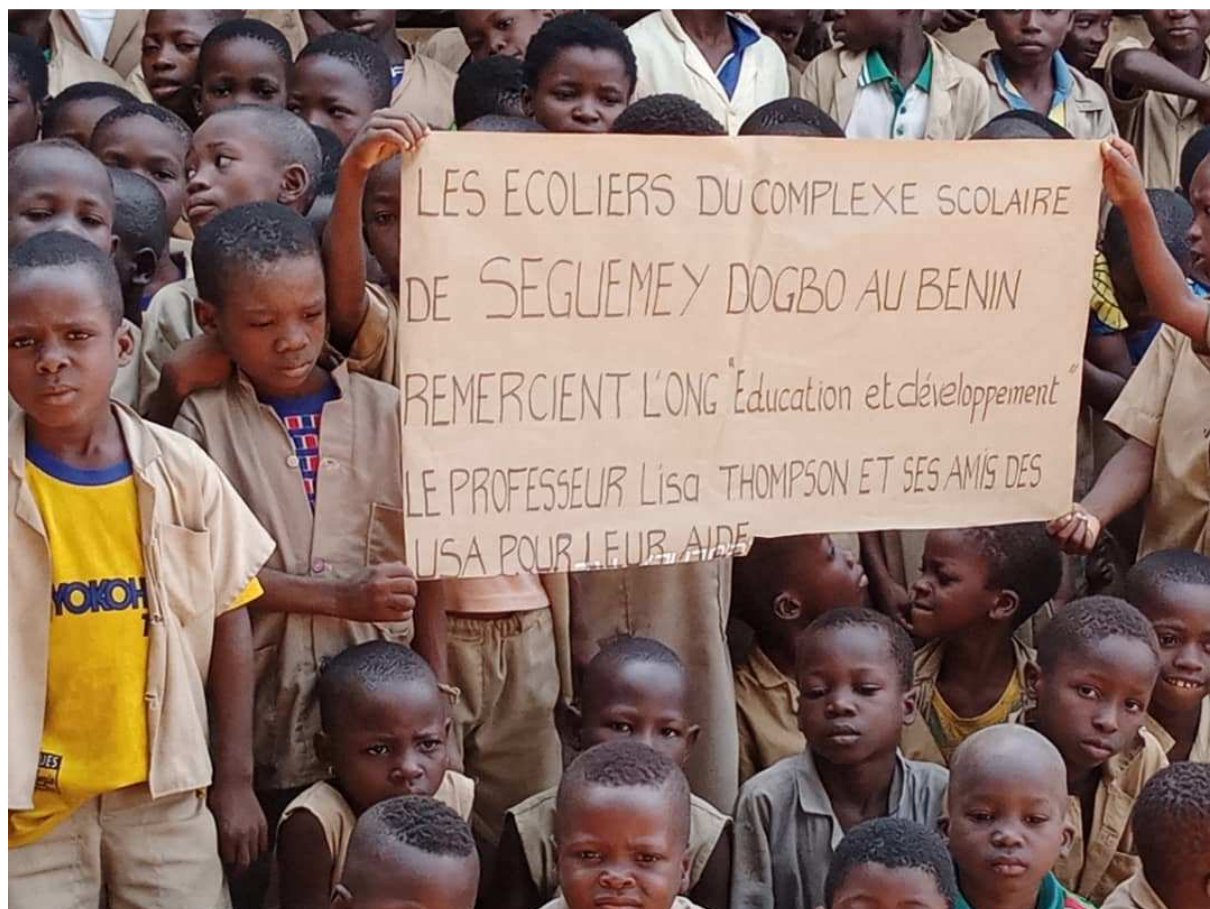


Schoolchildren enjoying a meal at the public school of Seguemey in Benin (Africa)

Knowing that Professor Lisa THOMPSON likes the children to eat well, which will allow them to follow lessons well, and to succeed in school and even in life, ONGED did not delay to come to assist this school of Séguémey with the means that Professor Lisa THOMPSON offered. At least, NGO ensured the purchase of nutritious ingredients for the canteen of the schoolchildren of this school.

The tap of this school is spoiled, ONGED called the plumber and paid him the repair costs.

There are other needs such as the repair of the kitchen for the canteen, the construction of hand-washing facilities, offering school supplies.



2.3: Support for women's empowerment

Since last year, ONGED has brought together 25 women to ensure food security through the activity of preparing "gari" (cassava flour). Dozens of others were added later. At a certain point in the existence of this women's group, there was a food shortage, and the raw material for their work was rare and very difficult to find. These women were faced with survival problems. The assistance that ONGED brought to them helped these brave women and their children (often schoolchildren) to overcome the difficulties that occurred in the region.

Professor Lisa THOMPSON sent them money to buy working tools, which encouraged them to get to work. Thanks to this, the women and their respective families have overcome difficulties. They are very happy about it.

They ask ONGED to build a workshop equipped for their activities.

3- Future projects

The health situation is worrying and overshadows the others. Therefore, we plan to start again with traditional medicine. ONGED will give hygienic and nutritional advice. It will direct possible patients in serious danger to the appropriate hospitals.

ONGED will continue to seek funding for its projects, including the construction of a module of three (3) classrooms and the construction of a trade center to train the population on local income-generating activities and especially to revive the craft and art. In any case, we need subsidies in order to achieve our goals. ONGED wishes to contribute to put everyone at work, especially the young people who ask for help for agropastoral activities.

Conclusion

Before concluding, we would like to thank of the United States of America people for their generosity. With the exception of one Beninese who does not wish us to reveal his name, it is these Americans, notably Professor Lisa who knows well the school and social life in Benin, who have enabled the members of ONGED to realize what is done for more than 2,000 pupils and school children impacted in the CEG, the schools. The women of the village of Kpodaha have also benefited from the help of ONGED. We also thank the only unique Beninese donor, like Professor Lisa THOMPSON he has also contributed to the realization of what is done for his compatriots in the country. He knows that the NGO Education and Development (ONGED) needs subsidy.

The help of our authorities and of everyone is necessary to support us and to make us autonomous in the long run.