



Graines de Paix

Education solutions for sustainable peace

BENIN PROGRAMME

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND REDUCING VIOLENCE THROUGH PEACE CULTURE EDUCATION



Benin Programme

Empowering over 100'000 children through education in Northern Benin

Programme summary

Programme duration: 2019-2021

Improving primary education and preventing violence against children through peace culture education in the Alibori department, January 2019 – January 2022 (36 months)

Budget: 145'000 CHF / 144'334 USD

General objective

To contribute to quality education and reduce violence against children in the Alibori region in Benin by promoting violence-free education in school (primary and preschool levels) and in communities.

Specific objectives

- OS1.** To contribute to the improvement of school success and to reduce school abandonment by strengthening the psychosocial competences and the capacities of primary and preschool teachers to adopt pedagogical practices and postures centred on children.
- OS2.** To contribute to the reduction of violence against children in schools and in families through the introduction of pedagogical practices based on positive discipline and on a positive representation of the child.
- OS3.** To accompany the Ministry of National Education MEMP in the realisation of the new Sectoral Plan for Education objectives

Direct beneficiaries:	Trainers (pedagogical counsellors, inspectors), primary and preschool teachers, community agents and social workers
Indirect beneficiaries:	Students, parents and communities, MEMP, MASM

Partners: Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education MEMP; Permanent Technical Secretariat for the Decennial Plan for the Development of the Education Sector; INFRE; EDUCO; Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance MASM

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Context

After 25 years of democratic rule, Benin still experiences governance challenges that impact the delivery of public services such as education. Decentralisation proves particularly challenging in the education sector, where laws assigning to localities the responsibility for the construction, equipment, repair and maintenance of school buildings are only timidly enforced. In the field, the central level continues to direct and execute actions normally devolved to local administrative units.

The new Sectoral Plan for Education post-2015 (PSE post-2015) underlines several issues within the education system: the difficulty to satisfy a rapidly increasing demand for schooling, the need for measures to promote equality in certain zones and social categories, the insufficient attention given to alternative education, literacy, adult education and training, the improvement of sectoral governance etc.



The number of students enrolled has increased across nearly all levels of schooling between 2010 and 2015, representing now a major challenge for national institutions. Public education remains plagued by frequent school abandonment (school abandonment rate of 18.61%, 19.21% for girls) and unsatisfactory acquisition levels, revealed and confirmed by the national exams results.

The new Sectoral Plan for Education stresses the necessity of improving education quality in Benin to address negative phenomena such as radicalisation, the perpetuation of oppressive social norms, particularly towards young women, occurrences of violence against children and societal violence more generally. The new sectoral plan believes in the “fair development of human capital as the foundation of economic growth”. To realise this vision, it is primordial to improve the quality of teaching and acquisition. Children’s learning environment must be made safer and more peaceful, and children must be prepared for leadership. The acquisition of life competences centred on the protection of children against violence is primordial, as are civic education and peace education.

Intervention for the prevention of violence against children and the strengthening of primary education in the Alibori region

Situated in the country’s North-east, Alibori is the largest region in Benin (23% of the national territory). The department’s population is predominantly rural (75%) and practices Islam (81.3%). Agriculture is the main economic activity. Alibori faces all the major education challenges present in Benin today: the region has the lowest school enrolment rates in the country (6.7% preschool enrolment rate, 59.4% primary school enrolment rate), and an attainment rate of 36.4%. The repetition rate is the second highest in the country (13.3%) and abandoning school is common (abandonment rate 18.3%). At school, the student/teacher ratio

is 72 (the highest in Benin), with direct repercussions on teaching methods and classroom discipline. A doctoral thesis (2016) studies the factors behind school abandonment in Alibori, including violence at school and gender-based violence¹. To respond to the region's serious educational needs, Graines de Paix has chosen this department as a priority zone for intervention. We have designed an in-service training program for 1800 primary school teachers in Alibori.

Activities for the introduction of peace culture education and the prevention of violence against children in Alibori

- A1** Elaboration of the project's theory of change in Kandi in collaboration with the actors
- A2** Awareness-raising campaign to prevent violence against children in Alibori (Kandi)
- A3** Integration of PCE into the primary teachers' repository of competences (Cotonou)
- A4** Elaboration/validation of training plan for parental education (Cotonou)
- A5** Elaboration/validation of a training program for primary school trainers (Cotonou)
- A6** Training workshop for primary school level trainers (Kandi)
- A7** Training workshop in parental education for community workers in Kandi
- A8** Elaboration and validation of primary school training guide (Kandi)
- A9** Elaboration and validation of pedagogical kit for primary school teachers (Kandi)
- A10** In-service training for primary school teachers: organisation of 94 sessions of 3 days each
- A11** Deployment (48x) of the touring exhibition "Education without violence" in communities
- A12** Deployment (30x) of the exhibition "Neither hedgehog, nor doormat" in targeted schools
- A13** Follow-up/monitoring of trained teachers
- A14** Monitoring of the effects of the intervention
- A15** Final report on the intervention's outcomes, to be integrated into the midway evaluation of the PSE post-2015

Expected results (outcomes) of the intervention to introduce peace culture education and prevent violence against children in Alibori

- A theory of change for the intervention is elaborated in Kandi (capital of Alibori region).
- A monitoring framework for the intervention is set up in Kandi.
- An awareness-raising campaign is rolled out to reduce violence against children, gender-based violence in particular.
- A training program for trainers is produced by GdP experts and validated by the MEMP; 20 primary school level trainers are selected among the pedagogical counsellors and trained to carry out teacher training and accompany the acquisition of a new professional posture in keeping with quality education.
- 1'880 primary level teachers are trained to the tools and approaches of peace culture education.
- 30 community workers are trained in parental education.
- A training guide is designed in collaboration with the intervention actors.
- A pedagogical kit for the primary school teacher is produced, featuring 50 activities on a range of topics, including gender-based discrimination.
- The exhibition "Education without violence" is toured in communities throughout the 240 days of the intervention.
- The exhibition "Neither hedgehog, nor doormat" is toured in selected schools during 150 days throughout the duration of the intervention.
- 180 follow-up visits are carried out by trainers during the intervention.

¹ BARGA, Kamel Aréo ; Scolarisation des enfants à l'école primaire en République du Bénin : les résistances du département de l'Alibori ; Thèse de Doctorat, Université d'Abomey Calavi ; 2016

- A baseline and end-of-intervention survey are carried out, data is collected, analysed and a report is written to inform the programme and the midway evaluation of the PSE post-2015 (scheduled for 2021).
- A monitoring report is written up, presented and integrated into the midway evaluation of the PSE post-2015.

Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the intervention in Alibori are the trainers, pedagogical counsellors and primary school teachers trained by Graines de Paix. Primary school students, community representatives and parents taking part in GdP animations and activities will benefit from the intervention.

The indirect beneficiaries are the community at large, which will benefit from an improved primary education, a higher school attainment rate and a more peaceful social climate.

Finally, the Ministries of Preschool and Primary Education and Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance will benefit from actions that contribute to offer quality primary education and to provide equal access to education in Alibori. The ministries will also be equipped with resources and competences to better ensure the protection of children.

Evaluation

A. The external evaluation of our resources, *Grandir en Paix* (Bex, Suisse) and of our projects (*Violence prevention project in Tonkpi, Côte d'Ivoire*) offers a guarantee of the quality of our interventions and their impacts.

Our *Grandir en Paix* collection, published by Loisirs et Pédagogie in Switzerland, was implemented in 9 classrooms of the Bex primary school during one school year and evaluated by the Haute Ecole Pédagogique du Valais in 2017. The resource obtained the official grade B, granted to resources demonstrating a "high quality, scientifically validated or highly recommended, following practical experiments in classrooms with an external evaluation".

B. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is evaluating our violence prevention project in the Tonkpi region in Côte d'Ivoire. The intermediary results already demonstrate:

- A statistically significant change in the rejection of physical discipline practices by teachers after one day of training.
- A statistically significant increase in teachers' self-confidence and motivation to use non-violent techniques and the proposed peace activities.

Final results will be available in 2019.



Budget

Our Benin Programme is designed over three years (2019, 2020, and 2021). The total budget amounts to CHF 1'450'000 or USD 1'443'346 over 36 months. The summary featured below outlines the cost per activity for our areas of intervention. Our financing plan includes diverse funding mechanisms. We have successfully secured 50% of our global budget from the Smartpeace Foundation (Switzerland).

Our aim is to mobilize our community and the Global Giving platform to secure 10% of our global budget, USD 145'000.

Quality Education and Violence Prevention in Benin 2019-2021 Budget in CHF				
Activities	Total cost	2019	2020	2021
I Strengthening preschool education in the Atlantique and Littoral departments				
A1 Participative elaboration of the intervention's theory of change	40 565	40 565		
A2 Awareness-raising campaign to promote preschool education	19 521	19 521		
A3 Integration of peace culture education into the skills' repository for the preschool teacher	18 383	18 383		
A4 Elaboration and validation of training plan in parental education	20 702	20 702		
A5 Elaboration and validation of training framework for the preschool teacher trainers	22 131	22 131		
A6 Training workshop for the supertrainers of preschool teacher trainers	30 905	30 905		
A7 Training workshop in parental education for 24 community workers	27 752	27 752		
A8 Elaboration and validation of the preschool teacher training guide	28 970	28 970		
A9 Elaboration and validation of the pedagogical toolkit for the preschool teacher	63 750	40 000	23 750	
A10 Elaboration and validation of the touring exhibition "Education without violence"	30 980	30 980		
A11 In-service training for 2'700 preschool teachers: 135 sessions of 3 days each	45 887		32 776	13 111
A12 Deployment of touring exhibition "Education without violence" in target communities (48x): 5 days/animation	26 029		17 352	8 676
A13 Deployment of touring exhibition "Neither hedgehog, nor doormat" in selected schools (30x): 5 days/animation	37 950		25 300	12 650
A14 Follow-up monitoring of trainers and trained teachers	31 052		12 421	18 631
A15 Monitoring of intervention's effects	50 527	20 527		30 000
A16 Report on intervention's final results and integration into the mid-way evaluation of PSE post-2015	26 338			26 338
A17 Office costs in Cotonou	64 563	38 155	13 205	13 205
Total cost of intervention in Atlantique and Littoral departments	586 007	338 591	124 804	122 611
II Peace culture education and violence prevention in Alibori				
A1 Participative elaboration of the intervention's theory of change	50 960	50 960		
A2 Awareness-raising campaign to prevent the use of violence against children	19 146	19 146		
A3 Integration of peace culture education into the skills' repository for the primary teacher (Cotonou)	18 383	18 383		
A4 Elaboration and validation of training plan in parental education	20 702	20 702		
A5 Elaboration and validation of training framework for the primary school teacher trainers (Cotonou)	22 131	22 131		
A6 Training workshop for supertrainers of primary school teacher trainers (Kandi)	44 143		44 143	
A7 Training workshop in parental education for 30 community workers (Kandi)	33 588		33 588	
A8 Elaboration and validation of the primary school teacher training guide	34 278		34 278	
A9 Elaboration and validation of the pedagogical toolkit for the primary school teacher	70 819		70 819	
A10 In-service training for 1'800 primary school teachers: 94 sessions of 3 days each	40 142		20 071	20 071
A11 Deployment of touring exhibition "Education without violence" in target communities (48x): 5 days/animation	38 894		19 447	19 447
A12 Deployment of touring exhibition "Neither hedgehog, nor doormat" in selected schools (30x): 5 days/animation	43 866		21 933	21 933
A13 Follow-up monitoring of trainers and trained teachers	40 390		11 252	29 138
A14 Monitoring of intervention's effects	55 598		29 108	26 490
A15 Report on intervention's final results and integration into the mid-way evaluation of PSE post-2015	38 666			38 666
A16 Office costs in Kandi	42 491	12 914	14 788	14 789
Total cost of intervention in Alibori	614 198	144 236	299 427	170 534
III Other programme costs				
A18 Fundraising costs	40 637	40 637		
A19 Programme support costs (40 months)	53 800	21 520	16 140	16 140
A20 Administrative costs (12%)	155 357	51 786	51 786	51 785
Total other programme costs	249 794	113 943	67 926	67 925
Overall programme cost	1 450 000	596 770	492 157	361 070

Financing plan 2019-2021 (in Swiss Francs - CHF)	Total	2019	2020	2021
Strengthening preschool education in the Atlantique and Littoral departments	586 007	338 591	124 804	122 611
Peace culture education and violence prevention in Alibori	614 198	144 236	299 427	170 534
Other programme costs	249 794	113 943	67 926	67 925
Overall programme cost	1 450 000	596 770	492 157	361 070
Participation Smartpeace 50%	725 000	298 385	246 079	180 535
Participation DDC 30%	435 000	179 031	147 647	108 321
Participation other donors (cantons, communes, foundations 10%)	145 000	59 677	49 216	36 107
Participation GlobalGiving Crowdfunding (10%)	145 000	59 677	49 216	36 107
Total financing	1 450 000	596 770	492 157	361 070