



NURSE ME:

Let's defeat child malnutrition in Benin

Aleimar

Insieme ai bambini del mondo

WHO IS ALEIMAR

Aleimar is a voluntary organisation that has believed in a precise objective **since 1983: to support children in difficulty** without distinction of origin, religion, ethnicity and culture. **"Together with the children of the world"** is the mission that guides us and leads us to support children in their needs such as health, nutrition and education, helping them in their human, affective, social and cultural growth. **We are present in 11 countries around the world**, supporting 430 children through Distance Support (SaD) and another 2500 through our Development Projects in favour of families and local communities. In particular, **we have been working in Benin since 1993**.

Together with our local partners, over the years we have supported projects aimed at protecting the rights of children and the weaker sections of the population, improving their living conditions and promoting greater economic self-sufficiency.



BENIN

Ranked 167th in Human Development Index, the **Republic of Benin** is one of the poorest countries in West Africa.

The **literacy rate is only 34.7%**. This is not due to the failure of young people to enroll in the school system, but rather to the dropout rate while still in school: about 66 out of every 100 children leave school even before finishing elementary school. The main cause is that children have to start working really early, compounded by the difficulty in paying school fees.

Agriculture is the country's main economic activity, but **food production is insufficient to meet the needs of the population**, and recurrent famines occur during the dry season. **32% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition**.

There are **few health facilities** in the country and, where they exist, they are not sufficiently equipped to meet the needs of the population.

70% of the rural population currently has **no access to clean water**. Data on **infant mortality and maternal mortality are worrying**: about 10,000 infants die each year due to lack of care, and more than 37,000 deaths occur among children aged 0-5 years.



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Aleimar has been working in Benin since 1993 and has always collaborated with local partners that are well recognized by local communities. The project “NURSE ME: Let's defeat child malnutrition in Benin” is developed thanks to the partnership with “L’Abbraccio Hospital”, neonatal hospital of **Sokpontà** (“Les Collines” Department, in the center of Benin), with the religious institute OCPSP (Oblate Catechists Little Servants of the Poor) in **Natitingou** and **Bagou** (“Atakora” and “Alibori” Departments in the north of the country) and with the Augustinian Sisters in **Perma** (“Atakora” Department).

AIM OF THE PROJECT

General goal: reducing child malnutrition (0-5 years old) in Atakora, Alibori and Les Collines departments in Benin.

Specific objective:

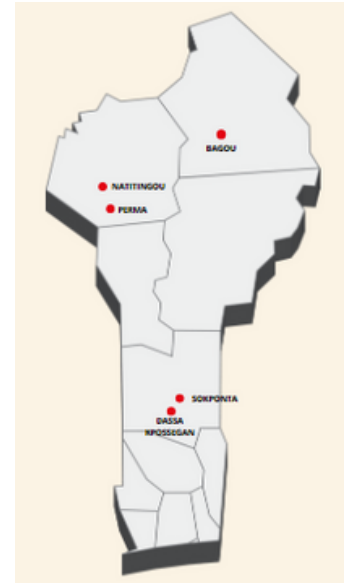
1. Preventing the onset of malnutrition in pregnant mothers and newborns;
2. Decreasing child undernourishment and child malnutrition;
3. Providing care to children with moderate and severe malnutrition.

RECIPIENTS

- 8.000 children involved in the monthly screening activities in 25 rural villages near Sokpontà;
- 500 women trained in 25 rural villages near Sokpontà;
- 50 children that live in the center of Natitingou managed by the sisters of OCPSP;
- 20 children that live in the center of Bagou managed by the sisters of OCPSP;
- 30 children that live in the center of Perma managed by the Augustinian sisters;

ACTIVITIES

- 1.1. **Train women**, especially mothers, that live in 25 rural villages near Sokpontà through cooking workshops are aimed at learning how to combine nutritious foods and follow the most basic hygiene practices.
- 1.2. Involve the local population in **children monthly screening visits** managed by the staff of L’Abbraccio Hospital;
- 2.1. **Supply powder milk, nutritional supplements** and to the children hosted in the foster homes;
- 3.1. Provide **medical care and hospitalization** to the children affected by high malnutrition;



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BUDGET

- 10 USD = will ensure powdered milk for a child for one week
- 40 USD = will ensure powdered milk for a child for one month
- 70 USD = will provide therapeutic foods in the villages for one month
- 100 USD = will ensure the presence of a nutritionist in the villages for one month



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