



Benin



Intervention areas: child protection, hunger and health



Project “Nurse Me”

This project stems from the need to support the children hosted in three of our accommodation centres in Benin, through the supply of powder milk. ‘Nurse me’ involves **undernourished, motherless, neglected children or whose mothers are HIV positive**, and who for these reasons can’t be breastfed during the first months of their lives.

The project develops in the regions of Zou and Atacora, two areas in which inhabitants live mainly in rural villages. The health situation in these regions is alarming: **childbirth mortality rate is extremely high and newborns are often underweight**. Moreover, breastfeeding without blood ties is not contemplated in Benin’s culture. This factor, together with **malnutrition, lack of hygiene, and the rampant plague of AIDS**, causes several deceases. In addition to this, international aid has decreased, because of two issues: 1) the global economic crisis has led governments to reduce the aid to the countries of the South; 2) the World Food Programme has diminished the food aid in favour of Benin, in order to allocate more in support of countries at war.



Aleimar

Insieme ai bambini del mondo

Project objectives

- Promote the right to life and health;
- Prevent babies' premature death caused by the impossibility of breastfeeding.

Project beneficiaries

- Undernourished, motherless, neglected children or whose mothers are HIV positive, who are hosted in our accommodation centres or monitored by the nutritional centre;
- Families living in rural areas around our accommodation centres, which can benefit from a free health and nutritional service for their children.

Project advantages

The project consists in the purchase of milk powder to supply our three accommodation centres and the nutritional centre in the Hospital of Tanguiéta. In this historic moment, in which the dramatic increase of life and food cost is deeply affecting already poor populations, we consider this intervention more essential than ever. Moreover, powder milk in Benin costs as much as in Italy, but the average salary of a Beninese worker (without considering the high rate of unemployment) is about 70€ per month.



How we help

The accommodation centres managed by the local religious institute OCPSP (Oblate Catéchistes Petites Servantes des Pauvres) together with the Sisters of St. Augustin, are located near the main traffic ways and many families from the surrounding villages lean on these structures in order to support their children who at the village would be at risk of death. A team composed by nuns and local "mamans" take care of about 130 children hosted in the centres. Recently, a cooperation with the Hospital of Tanguiéta was started: while Aleimar contributes to the purchase of powder milk for the nutritional centre, the Hospital of Tanguiéta provides a food supplement based on local plants. Every child needs about 3 kg of powder milk per month in order to survive.

What you can do



10\$

You can provide powder milk for a month to a child.



25\$

You can guarantee powder milk for six months to a child.



120\$

You can provide powder milk for a year to a child.