



**Background**

*Education 4 All* is a program that provides financial and material support to young girls in rural settings. Initiated in 2007, this program takes responsibility of educating girls registered in CP2 (primary level 2) class and follows them throughout their primary education, until they receive their Certificat d’Etude du Premier Degré (CEPD). This year’s project continued in the village of Namaré, which is situated in the Savanna region – the poorest region – of Togo.

The execution mission of the 2008/09 *Education 4 All* project took place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008. Members from our partner organization, REJED went to Namaré to deliver supplies and initiate the 2008/09 edition of the project. Two follow-up visits were conducted in April and July of 2009 to check up on the students and address any concerns that the teachers or villagers had.

**Execution Mission – 2008/09**

The objectives of the execution mission were to:

- Follow-up and continue the sponsorship of 86 girls who were sponsored last year
- Initiate the sponsorship of 41 new girls.
- Deliver school supplies and teaching materials for the benefit of all school goers.
- Create a Parents’ Associations in each of the beneficiary schools.

Activities that were carried out over the course of the execution mission include:

*Meetings with Teachers and Directors of the schools*

The teachers and directors of our five beneficiary schools were regrouped and participated in an open dialogue with members of our partner organization REJED. The teachers and directors were reminded of the objectives and principles of our program and were asked to contribute feedback as well. The next stage of the *Education 4 All* project is to ensure improved teaching quality to the students, therefore based on the information collected from this mission more focus will be placed on ensuring how to improve teaching standards.



*Outreach to the community on the importance of education*

Members from REJED and AGAIB (a Togolese non-profit organization) made a presentation with the chief of the village to address their concerns and questions and to reinforce the importance of primary education for girls. With the chief’s support, we anticipate the fellow villagers to buy-into the idea as well.



## *Administrative Meetings*

The goal of the administrative meetings was to further build relationships between government officials and have the involvement of authorities in the success of this initiative. The teaching inspector of primary education of the Tone region, and Namaré's chief of village both expressed their interest in the successful execution of this program.

## *Parents Association*

Alongside the goal of facilitating better exchange between our program and the children's parents, a Parents Association was launched to have better involvement and support of parents to encourage academic success amongst their children. Each of the five schools has a Parents Association that are moderated and facilitated by either the director or a teacher at the school. 2009 was used to determine the interest and involvement requested from the parents and accordingly an Agenda of action items will be established for upcoming school year.



## *School Supplies Ceremony*

The villagers were gathered for a ceremony to distribute the school supplies. Invitees included the chief of the village and his notables, the directors and teachers of the five schools covered by the program, all of the sponsored girls and their parents, and other children from the schools.



A school supplies kit, comprising of a chalk, slate, notebooks, pens, pencil, ruler, and course-books were distributed to the sponsored girls. As well, additional notebooks and supplies were given to the teachers of all the schools for the use of the other non-sponsored children.

Along with the school supplies, the sponsored girls also had their school fees paid for the entire academic year.

## *Results and Follow-up from the first edition of Education 4 All (2007-08)*

With the help of our program, in the last two years, a 39% increase in girls' enrollment to primary schools was witnessed. This percentage includes those girls sponsored through *Education 4 All* and new girls that were registered independently by their parents. Through our outreach efforts, the population at large in the village of Namaré is becoming more aware of the importance of education. More girls are being sent to school and parents are not so quick to pull their children out of school.

The second edition of *Education 4 All* was able to help **559** girls gain better access to education:

- 86 of the 89 girls that were sponsored in the first edition were renewed and continue to attend school.
- 41 new girls were sponsored in the newest school: Ecole Primaire Catholique Namaré Centre
- School supplies were provided to 432 girls at all primary grades in the five schools covered by the program
- A teaching kit, comprising of geometry tools was provided to Ecole Primaire Catholique de Bouyeme.

### **New Classrooms**

In January 2009, construction began on expanding the school Lyétiélou. With the help of local volunteers and funding support from AGAIB Savanes, three additional classrooms were built. Next year, they will look towards completion of this project by building walls.



### **Looking Ahead**

In the long term, with the help of its partners, REJED hopes to further enlarge this project to two additional schools in the region and implement health and nutrition programs. The goal of the health and nutrition programs is to encourage better health for the children, which will ensure higher classroom attendance, increased capacity to learn and eventually better performance at school.

Additionally, our partner organization executing on the ground is working with a Togolese non-profit organization (AGAIB Savanes) to provide the teachers in our beneficiary schools with courses and training to further their teaching skills. It is important that we reinforce the importance of collaboration between teachers, parents of students and partnering organizations for the success of this program.

Namaré and its surrounding regions do not have access to electricity, which impairs students from studying after dark among other activities. We will be exploring potential partnerships with other organizations to set-up electricity or alternative sources of lighting in the homes so that the students can study at night.

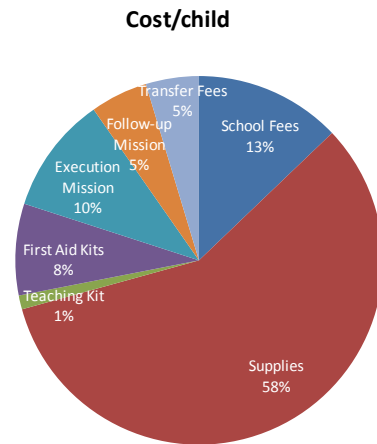
### Conclusion

The second edition of *Education 4 All* has achieved its objectives of the advancement of education, the promotion of equality and empowerment through young girls' education. Now that the program has been established, we recognize the need to go one step further and ensure that the children are receiving the best education possible. Research is being conducted and ground work is being laid to improve teaching standards, to further ensure a higher success rate of the girls. We are further exploring the possibilities of the introduction health and sanitation programs as well as a food component to the schools. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

The cost for child sponsorship has increased to \$30cnd /girl for this upcoming year. The \$5 increase is associated with increased costs in Togo for administering the project and to provide enhanced teaching supplies to schools.

Generous corporate supporters continue to donate their services and funds to help Nukoko cover its overhead costs, ensuring that **100% of individual donations go directly to our projects.**

The cost breakdown is the same as last year:



*Thanks to the support of Nukoko's generous supporters and our partnering organizations, we are able to advance the development and welfare and deserving girls.*

