

BENIN 2025

Woord en Daad is a Dutch NGO which brokers broad partnerships for change for the worlds' poor, both global and local, facilitates shared decision making of partners in business development and implementation, and advocates for Southern stakes in the international agenda among Northern policy makers and donors.

INTERVENTION ZONES

Woord en Daad cooperates with 26 partner organisations in 18 countries.

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda

Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka

Central and Latin America: Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti

PARTNERS IN BENIN

DEDRAS, PBSA, PASCiB, CSCI, ETD, Nuts2, Afokantan, Fair Match Support



Youth employment *Agri Job Booster*

Woord en Daad has worked since 2006 with DEDRAS, in developing vocational education. DEDRAS has built a vocational college, which teaches technical training courses, focused primarily on the younger generation. These courses include construction, car mechanics, welding and metalworking. Short courses are also provided to farmers in the area.

The AgriJob Booster is a social enterprise that facilitates the (self) employment of youth in the Borgou area in 5 communities (Bembereke, Sinendé, Ndali, Tchaourou, Parakou), by access to agricultural market-driven training (mobile training in villages, short courses, modular courses spread over several months); an important focus is entrepreneurship and soft skills. This market-orientated approach is derived from the demands of entrepreneurs, and will increase young people's chances of a job. This involves abroad network of private parties, Technical and Vocational Education & Training Centers (TVET), agricultural schools and government agencies in the center and north of Benin.

During the past 5 years this ambitious project was funded by the European Union, and succesfully achieved its targets. We will continue working on this theme with this network of partners on Youth Employment.

Education *INCE and Sponsorship*

Woord en Daad and DEDRAS work together to realize education opportunities wherein students benefit from quality Christian education. Students are developed in a holistic way and effectively participate in their country development. Our INCE (International Network of Christian Education)-approach works with four pillars:

- Training of teachers
- Educational advice services
- Networking between schools
- Lobby for better education.

Sponsorship

In the North of Benin (Borgou), Woord en Daad supports 820 children in the child sponsor programme by Dutch sponsors. DEDRAS developed a strategy to find local sponsors as well, starting with 31 sponsored children. The school programme pays attention to 'wash in schools' (water, sanitation and hygiene) and children and students are stimulated to work with computers, mobile apps and make plans for the future (income and entrepreneurship).

Agribusiness *Cashew and Rice*

Woord en Daad is the leading partner of the programme Cracking the Nut (FDOV, Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Foodsecurity). It is co-financed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. Cracking the Nut is an initiative to develop the cashew nut sector in Benin and Burkina Faso. We work closely with the Afokantan factory in Tchaourou, and with DEDRAS to create a cashew industry which works for both farmers and the factory.

Usually, cashews grown in Benin are processed in Vietnam or India. Woord en Daad and DEDRAS are also active in the Strategic Partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the flag of the Civic Engagement Alliance. Other partners include ICCO and CNV International and we are seeking cooperation with the government, seeking policies conducive to a more prosperous cashew sector. Increased cooperation with the Embassy in Cotonou could also make this Strategic Partnership more successful. This concerted effort could lead to better economic and social development for thousands of farmers, workers, and their families, within such an enhanced value chain.

Our ambitions

- To process 5,000 tons of cashews in Benin by 2021, supplied by a dedicated farmer network.
- Seedling assistance to farmers to expand their cashew farms.

Fair Rice and Familles Fortes

Furthermore, Woord en Daad, in collaboration with DEDRAS, has a project designed to support local rice production and processing, called: Fair Rice. Locally produced rice can be sold competitively on the local market. The goal of this project is to increase the production stream toward ESOP, support farmers, improve access to finance, and deploy Fair Factory concept. (www.fairfactoryfund.org). This project to support the rice production and processing includes an integrated approach with education and agribusiness development in the Sinendé community called 'Familles Fortes'.



Sustainable water

Drops for Crops & The Water Entrepreneur

Drops for Crops is a 7-year project led by a consortium, which includes Woord en Daad. The aim of this project is to promote efficient water use, in the five communities in Atacora Donga. A PPP between ETD (Entreprises, Territoires et Développement) Centre Sainte Famille (Burkina), and the Commune de Djougou, forms the basis for this project; with DEDRAS as the coordinating partner. We are also jointly working on a strategy, which combines public sustainable water management with private interests of increasing production and income. The goals set, by almost 1,500 farmers, are a doubling of the acreage, an increase in the total production of onions, tomatoes, sweet pepper, and cabbage of more than 4,000 tons per year. Achieving that goal would result in an increased income of more than 1,000 euros per household.

The Dutch embassy supports this project and was involved in verifying and assessing it, during the Netherlands Enterprise Agency verification mission.

Policy Influencing

Benkadi

The Benkadi project started in 2021, together with the Dutch government (as part of the Power of Voices program). For the coming years, the Benkadi project focuses specifically on strengthening the position of vulnerable groups and communities in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Mali when it comes to the effects of climate change.

The aim is to ensure that these groups and communities have equal rights, opportunities and opportunities to be resilient to climate change. The living environment for residents of Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Mali is changing as a result of climate change. This makes it difficult for the local communities to support themselves as they are highly dependent on natural resources.

Southern leadership is the strength of this project. The strength and creativity of the four West African NGO platforms who are in the consortium are optimally challenged.

