

## **LETTER FROM THE HUNGER PROJECT – BENIN**

Dear Partners, Investors and Friends from the Netherlands,

Last month, March 2013, The Hunger Project has been happy to welcome 30 investors. This is a first because THP–Benin had never received so many investors at once. It is a sign of a growth of energy towards our common dream.

Years go by and THP-Benin’s dream that I shared with those of you who were in the 2008 trip (the first one) and later on shaped in our Business Plan is coming true. And we do not lack in your support by any means. To all of you, I express my sincere thanks.

During the latest visit, we proceeded with the signing of the funding agreement of 2 million Euros over the next four years with the Dutch Embassy to Benin. This results from the recognition of the fruits of your investments in THP-Benin. It is also recognition of the validity of the integrated approach implemented in the epicenters. We are really delighted and feel endowed with additional enthusiasm to move on in the implementation of our Business Plan. As I am writing this letter, the first payment of 250.000 Euros (about 164 million CFAF) from the Dutch Embassy has been made.

We are henceforth more confident that the epicenter strategy can allow diversifying funding sources and this is another impact of your support. We will continue strengthening our actions in that direction.

We could also report that the epicenters are making good progress towards self-reliance. These are some examples illustrate that progress: the youth of Gbegourou who received a pedagogical funding from THP managed it so well that from the profit they get after one year, they could repair a water point that the community couldn’t afford making operational. Such dynamic reinsures that good trend to progress is being put in place for self-reliance. Indeed, the water point remained unusable for a long time after it broke down and the water company was taking time to mend it.

We can also mention the achievements of Beterou and Kissamey epicenters’ health units whose incomes suffice to cover their operating costs and to release a funding contribution to support the epicenters’ expenses. We can list the recognition of five kindergartens whose recurring costs are paid for by the government.

We can, without being exhaustive, point out that two epicenters (Kpinnou and Wawata) have now been connected to the national grid. Six epicenters have fully functional solar panels, which eases training and management activities. Furthermore, a computer room is open in two of our epicenters (Wawata and Akpadanou). The one in Akpadanou has been inaugurated during the latest investors’ visit.

The dynamic of our other programs confirm the progress of the epicenters towards self-reliance. I could share other examples of dynamic with you in up-coming letters. Meanwhile, I renew to all of you my sincere gratitude and I wish you much prosperity in your various undertaking.

Pascal

Country Director THP-Benin