

LETTER FROM THE HUNGER PROJECT – BENIN

Dear Partners, Investors and Friends from the Netherlands,

I have recently had the opportunity to meet some of you during my stay in the Netherlands (end August to beginning September). We have held our Hunger Project-“All Country Director Forum” in a very inspiring retreat center in Driebergen. Important strategic conclusions for The Hunger Project in general inspired all participants to more actively act for developing partnerships and alliances in order to increase our effectiveness towards zero hunger by 2030. This is in line with our initiatives towards the Tipping Point which led to specific activities shared with you in the previous letter.

In this regard, let me remind you of the audiences with United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Program, the European Union, the Embassies of the United States of America and the Netherlands. During the second quarter we carried on with this trend and other stakeholders (GIZ, World Food Program, Food and Agricultural Organization) are now sensitive to building partnership with The Hunger Project. I will report on the concrete results of those nascent partnerships as soon as we get some.

Also, we have continued with the moringa campaign which has been a very great success this year. We could notice a growing number of partners who join in the initiative: from two partners in 2012, we moved to 7 in 2014 and this year they are more than 20. More details can be accessed on www.moringacampaign.org. This contributes to enhancing the position of The Hunger Project in the arena of stakeholders involved in improving nutrition in Benin. The Hunger Project has been appointed by peers to represent the Civil Society Alliance for Improving Nutrition in Benin (Alliance de la Société Civile pour l’Intensification de la Nutrition au Bénin) at the General Gathering of Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN – www.scalingupnutrition.org) in Milan on 20 – 22 October.

During my recent visit in The Netherlands, I also had the opportunity, after the country director meeting, to join the celebration of the Millennium Development Goals achievements in IJlst. I had a great privilege and pleasure to meet some of you, to share some progress of our programs and to experience the vibrant and energetic atmosphere that prevailed during the celebration. Thank you to all of you who took me on the boat tour, offering me an opportunity to experience a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

The celebration in IJlst recalls to The Hunger Project-Benin the progress to be made to achieve self-reliance for three epicenters in Benin by end 2016. We are confident that we will make it. Thank you for supporting our programs, which are really making progress through various achievements, including those I have shared in this letter.

On the other hand, our assessment of the current political situation in Benin - which is confirmed by the view of the Dutch Embassy - leads us to envisage the postponement of the investors’ visit to June 2016. The reason is to avoid any political interference during that sensitive period of presidential election which will be taking place from February to end March. The inauguration of the new administration is planned for April.

I hope that this will not affect your plan and deter you from making it. We are expecting to have you as usual in 2016, year of great celebration in the implementation of the epicenter strategy in Benin. I invite you to join in whether it is March or June.

Thank you for your valuable and very much appreciated support!

Kind regards to you all,

Pascal Djohossou – The Hunger Project Benin