

LETTER FROM THE HUNGER PROJECT – BENIN

Dear Partners, Investors and Friends from the Netherlands,

Greetings to you all!

The March presidential election in Benin went on well and the apprehensions expressed in my previous letter are now far behind us. A new administration is in place since April and we could say that Benin has turned a new page of its history, with better hope and commitment to tackle major issues of development. Still the core values and principles of The Hunger Project remain to be spread widely so that the hope could be well managed in terms of citizen responsibility and endeavor, for all, towards change of mindset, leadership, vision, commitment, and action.

We find this context really appropriate to operate and emphasize on three major common threads that are essential to the national strategic plan for 2016 – 2020. We are developing this strategic plan now, with the support of The Hunger Project Global Office. Those common threads are (i) deeper impact with our strategy; (ii) making it mainstream; and (iii) scaling it up.

Our effort to be aligned with those central themes consists in the following three priorities that I wish to share with you once again.

First, supporting epicenter communities to achieve self-reliance. This is important to show to which extent our strategy makes impact and could be seen by other stakeholders as a model to be replicated.

Second, building partnerships and alliances/platforms to share our experiences and to learn from other stakeholders and, very important, to get resources and confidence to make our strategy become mainstream.

Third, making documentation originating from external evaluations available will, alongside the first two steps mentioned above and an effective advocacy, lead to scaling up our strategy.

To be specific and update you on those priorities, let me mention that our plan to meet the gap to self-reliance in the three epicenters targeted for 2016 is underway and we are confident that the results will be achieved.

About partnership, The Hunger Project – Benin is in good shape. Besides the partnerships already established, we have quite completed the process of building alliance with youth and women leaders' organizations at the national level. This will bring fresh and energetic blood to The Hunger Project's audience overall.

I am happy to share with you that our discussion with some funding partners led to a Euro 195.740 agreement with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) to implement a project aiming to restore soil fertility in four communities including the epicenters of Avlamè, Zakpota, Lahotan, and Dasso. We have reached another agreement with GIZ (Euro 39.000) for feasibility study of scale farming in the same communities. We, The Hunger Project – Benin team, will stick to the same trend and will keep you updated through the next letter.

Finally, I would like to invite all of you to join in the upcoming investors' trip to witness firsthand the progress in our epicenters in general and particularly in the three epicenter which are on the brink of achieving self-reliance.

Kind regards to you all,

Pascal Djohossou – The Hunger Project Benin