

LETTER FROM THE HUNGER PROJECT – BENIN

Dear Partners, Investors and Friends from the Netherlands,

As you all know, your support combined with the Dutch Embassy contribution led to a significant increase of our 2013 budget. I would therefore like to share with you some added values in our work induced by that increase. First, I will mention a significant progress in the quantity of chemical fertilizers made available to farmers in the epicenters. In total, 102.75 tons of fertilizers have been made available, compared to 2012 Q2 during which only 16, 5 tons were supplied. This allowed 684 men and 477 women to fertilize about 685 hectares of field that promise to give a good harvest.

Another notable progress linked to the increase in budget is that The Hunger Project Benin has more consistence in action and better visibility in general - particularly through the Three Moringa Tree Days Campaign. Indeed the campaign, launched last year, has gained much ground in terms of popularity as many partners even outside our epicenters and other stakeholders join in. This year, the campaign has focused on how women and children could take advantage of Moringa to enhance their nutritional status, especially during the window of opportunity of the first 1,000 days of life. According to scientists, during this period, any sort of malnutrition has irreversible consequences on the individual's life, particularly on the cognitive and intellectual abilities. Another specificity worth mentioning is that the campaign has been extended throughout the country, through the association of municipalities in Benin.

Among the stakeholders involved in this campaign, are the National Food and Nutrition Council (under the tutelage of the Presidency), the National Association of the Communes of Benin, the Unions of Beninese Producers through their Federation, International NGOs such as Plan-Benin, Care International, Aide & Actions, and the University of Abomey-Calavi. The campaign was largely covered by 33 daily papers, ten radio stations and two TV channels including the national television.

The ICT-project fully allows computerizing the rural banks' of Zakpota and Kissamey. Through that project, the youth in Akpadanou and Wawata are making significant progress in using a computer.

The Hunger Project is also gaining ground in the field of promoting entrepreneurship. Prior to the celebration of National Independence Day (August 1st), a fair has been organized to give companies the opportunity to promote local products. Representatives of the epicenters have participated in the fair with pineapple juice and with moringa flour processed in our epicenters.

And finally, our athletes, who could not make it to the Run for The Hunger last year, are now collecting required papers to be submitted for visa on time. The Hunger Project team who will come along with the athletes are also preparing for the trip. I will not join the event this time as it has been agreed upon with The Hunger Project Netherlands. However, I will be available to bring in any contribution if need be.

Could you please let me know issues you would preferably like to hear about in the upcoming letter?

I wish the best to all of you and will be in touch very soon through the next quarter letter.

Pascal

Country Director THP-Benin