Woord en Daad in Benin

Our mission and vision

Woord en Daad was established in 1973 and is based in the Netherlands. Our mission is motivated by the Christian perspective of justice and compassion. Our aim is to overcome poverty by sustainably transforming people and societies.

Woord en Daad cooperates with 36 partner organizations in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We connect social institutions, communities, educational centers, government bodies, entrepreneurs, and other sectors to realize sustainable change worldwide. Our approach consists of direct poverty alleviation, civil society strengthening and policy influencing.

Woord en Daad projects in Benin

Woord en Daad has been actively working in Benin, since 2006. We work there with various civil society organizations, including DEDRAS, PBSA, and a variety of private parties. This market-orientated development work, is conducted in the center and north of Benin, where major opportunities for agricultural development exist. Woord en Daad and its partners also work in primary education, vocational education, agricultural development and sustainable water projects (WASH).

1. Youth employment

Woord en Daad has worked with DEDRAS, in developing vocational education in Parakou, since 2006. 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. These vocational education programmes were included in the Job Booster project in 2019. This project
has a market-orientated approach, derived from the demands of entrepreneurs, that the offered courses, increase young people’s chances of a job. This involves a broad network of private parties, Technical and Vocational Education & Training Centers (TVET), and government agencies in the center and north of Benin.

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2 Agribusiness

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. Our 2021 goal is to process 5,000 tons of cashews in Benin supplied by a dedicated farmer network. Seedling assistance will also be given to farmers to expand their cashew farms. 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. We are seeking to motivate the government of Benin to adopt policies conducive to a more prosperous cashew sector. Increased cooperation with the Embassy in Cotonou could also make this Strategic Partnership more successful.

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3 Water Entrepreneurs

Woord en Daad is working with the Eijkelpamp Foundation and DEDRAS, on a transition of service levels, for the drinking water market in rural areas. We implemented a pre-paid technology, in which end users load a personal card with water credits. These cards can be swiped at the village-level water point, for the release of 25 liters of clean drinking water. This concept secures every drop is paid for, and provides the financial resources to manage, maintain and repair the distribution point; which is the absolute bottle-neck in rural area water provision.

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4 Drops4Crops

Drops4Crops 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 URCoopMa, 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 1500 farmers, are a doubling of the acreage, an increase in the total production of onions, tomatoes, sweet pepper, and cabbage of more than 4000 tons per year. Achieving that goal would result in an increased income of more than 1000 euros per household. The Dutch embassy supports this project and was involved in verifying and assessing it, during the Netherlands Enterprise Agency verification mission. Furthermore, Woord en Daad, in collaboration with DEDRAS, has a project designed to support local rice production and processing. 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. (https://fairfactoryfund.org/)

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