



Groupe **ENVOL AFRIQUE**

SOLIDARITÉ ET DÉVELOPPEMENT

Italie-République du Bénin

The 'Group Envol Afrique' recently formed from an association of volunteers and waiting to be recognized by ONLUS, is following four projects in the city of Parakou, in the Republic of Benin.

- 1) The setting up of a general working clinic that allows the local people a free, first aid service. The clinic was set up in January 2009 by a group of 10 volunteers of which some are medics. It is now managed by a professional male nurse. The male nurse, apart from carrying out the services offered, also distributes free medication to those that need it. The medications are collected by our group in Italy and then periodically sent out to the clinic. The objectives of the project are to enlarge the clinic, increase the services offered and to hire one or more local medics that would be able to run the clinic in a more adequate manner.
- 2) We are also following from a distance, an orphanage that is managed by three nuns who take in abandoned children. They find it very difficult to buy the necessary food for the children that they look after. Some of these children are small babies that need infant milk and at the moment these babies are being fed a liquid and flour mixture that certainly doesn't give them the nutrients required by babies of their age. Unfortunately there isn't enough money to enable them to buy the proper milk needed.
- 3) Supply of microcredit to the women. There are actually about 200 women that have already had access to this service where money is lent to women wishing to undertake a small craft or commercial initiative. The women then work to repay the small sum of money within 6 months and as soon as it is paid back, it is then used to loan to other women who in turn can undertake their own small activities. This initiative aims to boost the economy of the Republic which has become stagnant.
- 4) Realisation of a farm that can give work to the inhabitants of the area. They would work to make the land fertile and to supply home grown produce and meat to the population. There are 16 hectares of land available and we would also like to build a few small houses for the farm workers to live in, a well and an artificial lake that would supply the water needed for irrigation.

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