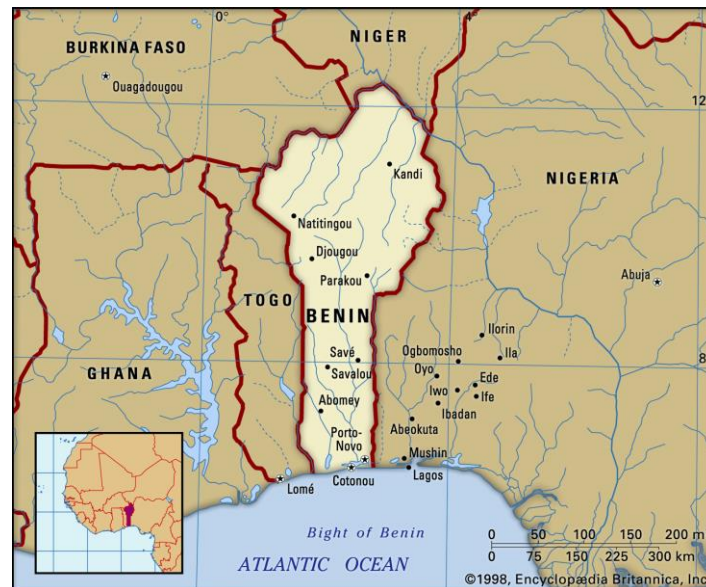




# BENIN



Benin is a Western African Country that counts 8 millions inhabitants.

The majority of the population lives in the south part of the Country, where there are the main cities. Benin has about 40 different ethnic groups and in its cities it is possible to find the core of the Country culture: voodoo and fetishism are still practiced among the population. The roads that should connect the villages and the cities are in terrible conditions as well as the healthcare system and the water network.

One of the biggest problem that Benin faces is child trafficking. Traffickers go in the poorest districts and offer money to the families and deceive them with false promises of financial wellness: thousands of children are sold and often end up working in the Ivory Coast plantations, in the Nigeria factories or as servants in rich people houses.

Half of the female population is denied an education and who is able to enroll in school has to leave it before finishing it; more than 25% of the male population do not attend any kind of school.

## SOKPONTÀ

The “Associazione L’Abbraccio” operates in the village of Sokpontà, in the centre of the Country, about 250 km from Cotonou airport. It is a strategic position as it is between the big public hospital of Cotonou and the one of Tanquietà, in the north of the Country.



The first step of the association was to renovate the school with 6 classes, a canteen and a dormitory. They didn't stop but built a pediatric hospital and an agricultural business so that, with the selling of their products, the centre could be independent. More than 240 children attend the school and benefit from a hot meal a day.

Giuseppe Di Menza, President of the Associazione L’Abbraccio, is responsible for the project, along with Fiorenzo Cirio, agronomist and expert of the agri-food sector and Suor Eulalie Kotoko, in charge of the school and the hospital.



The project of this association sustains more than 800 people.

Need You Onlus donated 12.000 € to help with the management of the centre. We also retrieved, thanks to our supporters, some necessary equipment for the agricultural business such as: a tractor, a plough and a trailer that, completely restored as new, we delivered to Giuseppe Di Menza.



The school





Children pose in front of the tractor



## THE SOAP MAKING LABORATORY OF SOKPONTÀ

In 2019, Maurizio Molan a doctor and a Need You Onlus partner and volunteer, visited the hospital of Sokpontà, built and managed by the “Associazione L’Abbraccio”. In such occasion, he witnessed the doings of the Suore degli Angeli of Naples. The nuns welcome the aid workers that operate in the area and attend with dedication to the mentally ill and the malnourished children of the near villages.

The nuns look after two cooperatives of working women, giving them logistic support: the bakery (it has 30 women who work on night shifts in rotation for 6 days a week; they bake bread, biscuits and nutritive baby food for the malnourished children) and a soap laboratory in which 12 women are involved. The Suore degli Angeli give these women the premises, they support them with the logistic and they provide the machines needed: the profit of these activities is equally divided between the working women of the cooperative.

The bakery laboratory already had good operating machines but the soap laboratory needed some help.

Thanks to Ada Geraldini Caraccia, to whom doctor Molan presented the project, with a donation of 2.000 €, it was possible to buy a mixer for 1.300 € and baby food and nutritive biscuits for the malnourished children.

Need You Onlus contacted the company Dermo28 and, via Antonella and the logistic help of the “Associazione L’Abbraccio”, we could send lavender essences they could use for the soap production: this enabled the cooperative to raise their prices and gain more means of support for the whole community.



## TANGUIETÀ HOSPITAL

The Saint Jean de Dieu Hospital of Tanguietà, a village situated in the north region, has 250 bed places. The hospital has a surgical department, internal medicine, pediatrics, maternity, radiology, rehabilitation, neonatology. The hospital also has an emergency room, a laboratory analyses with a transfusion centre and an ozone therapy centre.

The founder and soul of this hospital is Frà Fiorenzo Priuli, a surgeon from Brescia, who never gives up but constantly works to help his patients. The hospital relies on the volunteers help.

Need You Onlus decided to help the hospital: in 2019, doctor Maurizio Molan coordinated a medical mission and we could provide the hospital with medicines, medical supplies and logistic support.

The medical mission team comprised of: surgeon Anna Pertusati, from the Hospital Luigi Sacco of Milan, anaesthetist Alice Prigione, form the Hospital of Alessandria, nurses Teresa Trungadi from the San Gerardo Hospital of Monza and Renzo Zavaroni from the Hospital of Alessandria.





The medical team worked non-stop, especially in the ER. Typhoid peritonitis, with bowel perforations, is caused by typhus and it is very common in the area. The shortage of water in the dry season and the high contamination of the water makes it easier for children and young adults to contract the disease and they often arrive to the hospital in severe conditions. Doctor Molan told us that during the years ( it was his fourth mission at the hospital) he didn't notice a decrease of this pathology: in 2018 alone, the hospital of Tanguietà had 310 cases of typhoid peritonitis.



IT IS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT ALL NEED YOU ONLUS PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS. EACH PROJECT CAN HAVE THE LDS – LONG DISTANCE SUPPORT – SCHEME.