



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESENTED BY
Espace Opoko

READ THE REPORT ON:
www.espaceopoko.org
info@espaceopoko.org

Published by Espace Opoko

**Communication Service
Brazzaville**

**Case 3, Cité Cardinal Émile Biayenda
Republic of Congo**

**Contact: info@espaceopoko.org
Website: www.espaceopoko.org**

Suggested citation: "Investing in the education of indigenous children is investing in our shared future."

© Espace Opoko, August 2024

The data in this report reflects the activities carried out by Espace Opoko between August 2023 and August 2024. They were compiled, presented, and adopted during the General Assembly on August 20, 2024.

This report is available on our website: www.espaceopoko.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE EDUCATION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE, OUR PRIORITY

Number of pages

04	Introduction
09	Achievements of the Year 2024
10	School Education
24	Environmental Education
32	Collaborations
41	Trainings
44	Results
54	Celebrations
60	Challenges encountered
63	Future Perspectives
66	Conclusion

I- Introduction

1- GENERAL CONTEXT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Education is a fundamental right and a key driver of human development. In the Republic of Congo, indigenous children face numerous challenges that hinder their access to quality education. Socio-economic marginalization, the geographic remoteness of schools, and cultural discrimination are just some of the barriers that deprive them of educational opportunities. Yet, education plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of poverty, fostering social inclusion, and empowering indigenous communities. By providing accessible and tailored education to these children, we equip them with the tools to fully contribute to their country's development and secure a brighter future for themselves and their communities.



Why Are We Committed to Educating Indigenous Children?

Our commitment to the education of indigenous children stems from our belief that every child deserves an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background. We recognize that indigenous children are often left behind in traditional education systems, perpetuating inequality and deprivation. By investing in their education, we contribute to their empowerment, the preservation of their culture, and the improvement of their living conditions.

Espace Opoko is committed to creating inclusive learning environments and promoting educational policies that address the specific needs of these communities. Our goal is to ensure that every indigenous child has not only access to education but also access to quality education that values their identity and unique potential.

2- Brief presentation of the NGO, its mission, its objectives

We are firmly committed to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples by providing them with equitable educational opportunities and equipping them with the essential values that allow them to thrive in a modern, often ruthless world.

Our Mission

Our primary mission is to provide indigenous children with equitable access to quality education while actively promoting their rights and cultural identity.

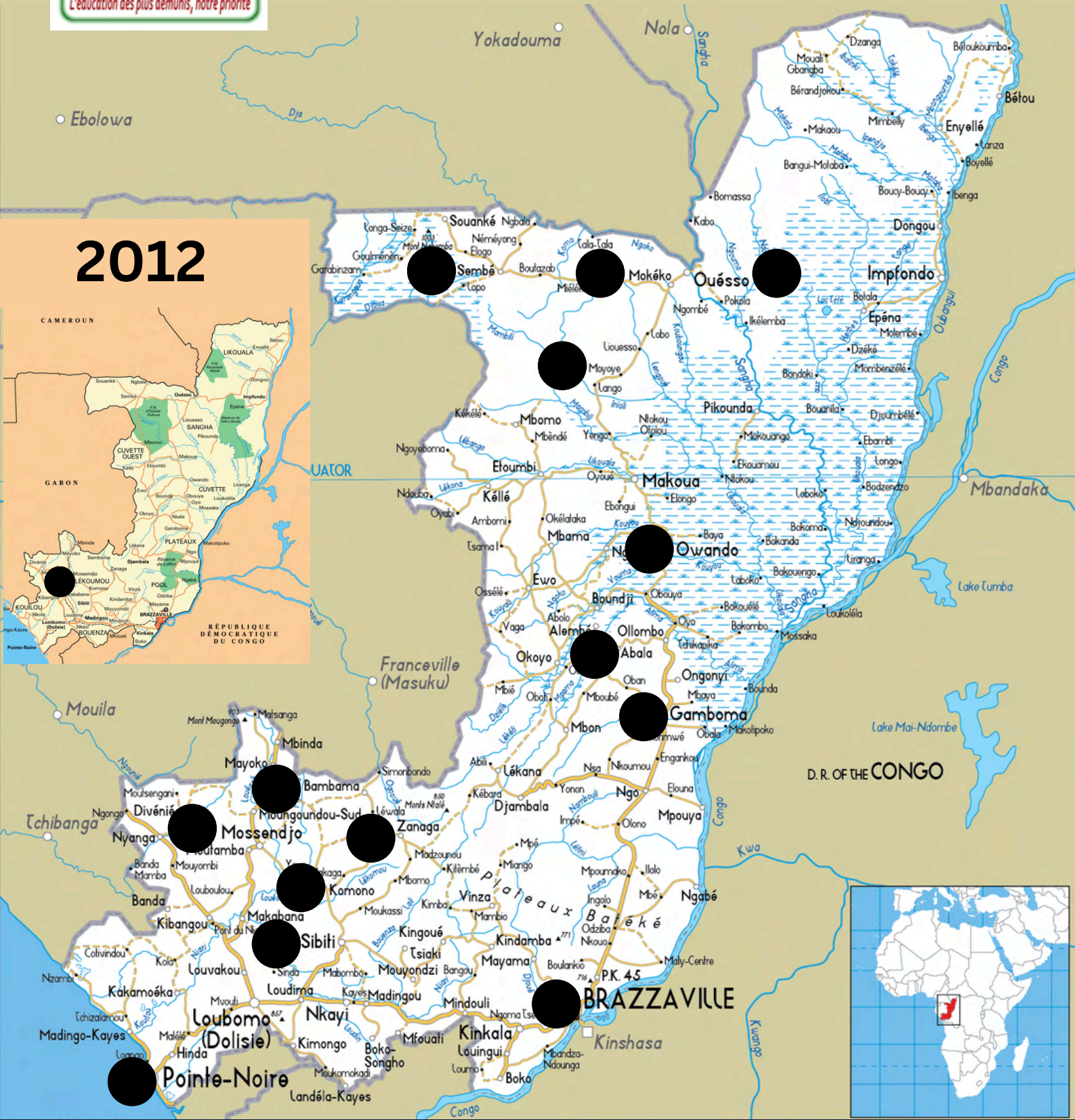
Our Objectives

- 1. Educational Equality:** To offer indigenous children the same opportunities for academic success as their peers, promoting their integration and well-being within the educational system while preserving their cultural identity.
- 2. Improvement of Academic Levels:** To raise the academic standards of indigenous students by providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary for a promising future, while valuing their traditional knowledge.

- 1. Prevention of School Dropout:** To reduce and eliminate the school dropout rate within indigenous communities by creating a supportive educational environment and highlighting their history and culture.
- 2. Promotion of Indigenous Rights:** To raise awareness about the cause of indigenous peoples, promote their rights, and recognize them as specific communities with unique educational needs.
- 3. Partnership and Parental Involvement:** To establish strong partnerships between parents, teachers, and students, actively encouraging parental participation in the educational process and in advocating for indigenous rights

At Espace Opoko, we firmly believe that every child, regardless of their background, deserves an equitable education that respects their culture and rights. We are committed to working toward an inclusive education that fosters respect and recognition of indigenous peoples within our society.





We began our mission in the Lekoumou department in 2012. Today, we continue to expand to other departments, with the goal of reaching all indigenous communities across the country.



Why are many indigenous children not enrolled in school in the Republic of Congo?

The education of indigenous children in the Republic of Congo faces a myriad of challenges that hinder their access to education and compromise their academic success. These challenges, though varied, converge into major obstacles that require essential support to overcome their detrimental effects.

First, the absence of role models within their communities is harmful. The lack of inspiring figures creates a sense of hopelessness about the very possibility of succeeding in the educational system. This absence of positive references leads some to view school as a waste of time, thus limiting their motivation to fully invest in their education.

Next, financial difficulties pose a serious problem. Indigenous families, often facing precarious economic conditions, struggle to fund their children's education. Public schools, theoretically free, become an additional financial burden when parents must cover basic educational needs, such as paying volunteer teachers. This financial constraint deepens the skepticism about the value of formal education for these children.

Persistent discrimination at school also exacerbates the situation. Indigenous children face discriminatory acts, ranging from mockery related to their clothing or pronunciation to systemic discrimination that hinders their academic development. These social pressures often lead to school dropouts, reinforcing the vicious cycle of educational marginalization.

Furthermore, precarious living conditions, including lack of food, hinder children's attendance at school. In communities where subsistence depends on hunting and gathering, education is sometimes seen as an obstacle to family contribution, leading to recurring school dropouts after holidays when children return to help their families.

Unresolved health issues, often treated with traditional methods, also impede the continuity of education. Illnesses and accidents can interrupt school attendance for extended periods, severely affecting the educational journey of indigenous children.

Moreover, the lack of parental literacy significantly limits the support they can provide for their children's education. Parents' inability to help their children with homework creates an additional disadvantage for these students who are already facing numerous obstacles at school.

The lack of accessible educational infrastructure, including the absence of high schools in certain regions, forces indigenous children to drop out of school after a certain level, thus limiting their future opportunities.

These multiple challenges require urgent and ongoing intervention to ensure equitable access to quality education for indigenous children. Supporting their educational journey involves not only removing material barriers but also promoting an inclusive and respectful environment that encourages their participation and academic development.

What We Do

Eliminating Barriers, Opening Horizons.

We support the education of indigenous children in Congo by providing comprehensive assistance that includes:

- **Educational Needs Coverage:** We cover tuition fees, school supplies, and uniforms necessary for children to attend school without financial barriers.
- **Logistical and Financial Assistance:** We also provide support for other essential needs such as food, medical care, and, if necessary, housing. This assistance aims to remove economic obstacles to education.
- **Monitoring and Support:** We ensure regular follow-up on the academic progress of the children and offer personalized support to help them succeed.
- **Access to Higher Opportunities:** By supporting children through to university, we empower them to achieve higher levels of education and open future opportunities equal to those of other children.
- **Special Projects:** We implement projects such as the rehabilitation of school and health facilities to enable children to continue their education in suitable conditions.



In summary, Espace Opoko ensures that indigenous children have the same chances of academic success as other children by removing financial barriers and providing continuous support.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

"Supporting the education of indigenous children is investing in the future of communities rich in culture and potential."



EDUCATION FOR ALL

1- School Education

**"EVERY INDIGENOUS CHILD
DESERVES A CHANCE TO LEARN,
GROW, AND SUCCEED -
EDUCATION IS THE FIRST STEP
TOWARDS THAT DREAM."**



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION



From September 15 to October 5, 2023, we conducted an extensive awareness campaign on the importance of school education in indigenous communities. Our goal was to motivate children to attend school and encourage parents to actively engage in their children's education.

We traveled to the indigenous communities of Bambama, Lefoutou, Leweme, DibaDiba, Moutouala, Bekole, Mougomo, Sibiti, and Indo in the Lekoumou department, as well as Ibonga, Attention, and Moyoye in the Sangha. Through this campaign, we successfully enrolled 513 indigenous children in school, including 410 in Lekoumou and 103 in Sangha.

To support this new generation of students, we also launched a school supply drive to provide the necessary materials for their education. This initiative aims to ensure that every enrolled child has access to the resources needed to succeed in their studies.

"For every indigenous child educated, it is one step closer to a more just, inclusive, and harmonious society."

School Supply Distribution Campaign: An Investment in the Future of Indigenous Communities

In October 2023, we carried out a school supply distribution campaign, marking a crucial milestone in our commitment to the education of indigenous children. For two weeks, our teams traveled through the districts of Bambama, Zanaga, Komono, and Sibiti in the Lekoumou department, as well as the districts of Mokeko and Sembé in the Sangha department. This initiative provided 515 indigenous students with the essential supplies needed to start their school year under good conditions.

The significance of this initiative goes far beyond simply distributing school materials. It helps to reduce inequalities in access to education, a fundamental right that is still too often inaccessible to indigenous children.

By providing them with the right tools, we enhance their motivation to continue their studies, foster their integration into the educational system, and open up future opportunities for them and their families.

Parents, teachers, and community leaders have all unanimously praised this initiative, which represents real hope for the future of indigenous children. For the communities, this campaign symbolizes a step toward greater social equity and better inclusion. For the country, it represents an opportunity to develop valuable human capital and ensure cultural and intellectual diversity within its future generations.

We remain convinced that education is one of the most powerful levers to break the cycle of poverty and promote sustainable development. This campaign reflects our determination to transform lives and provide every indigenous child with an equal chance to succeed.

Extension of Our Activities to Moutouala, Komono District

As part of our commitment to supporting the education of indigenous children, we have decided to expand our activities to the village of Moutouala in the Komono district, following constructive discussions with the village chief.

A field mission was organized to establish a dialogue with community leaders, students, and their parents. This initiative led to the identification of 36 students:

- 30 students enrolled in primary school
- 5 students in secondary school

- One young graduate of the Technical Studies Certificate (Brevet d'Études Techniques), who wishes to continue his studies but is facing difficulties in settling in Sibiti.

This indigenous community expresses a strong desire to improve its living conditions through education. However, the children face major obstacles, including a lack of financial resources and educational opportunities, which hinder their academic progress.

Aware of these challenges, we have committed to fully integrating them into our educational program.

School Kit Distribution Campaign: An Investment in the Future of Indigenous Communities



School Kit Distribution in Bambama



School Kit Distribution in Ketta



School Kit Distribution in Lefoutou



School Kit Distribution in Mokeko



School Kit Distribution in Moutouala



School Kit Distribution in Biessi



School Kit Distribution in Indo



School Kit Distribution in Konkoua

School Kit Distribution Campaign: An Investment in the Future of Indigenous Communities



School Kit Distribution in Leweme



School Kit Distribution in Goa



School Kit Distribution in Moussanda



School Kit Distribution in Comon



School Kit Distribution in Diba-Diba



School Kit Distribution in Seka



School Kit Distribution in Mougomo



School Kit Distribution in Ibonga



SCHOOL KIT DISTRIBUTION IN BAMBAMA

On October 14, 2023, we had the great honor of visiting the warm indigenous community of Bambama. This day was marked by enriching exchanges with local families, during which we shared our exciting plans for the 2023-2024 school year.

We also had the pleasure of distributing school kits to all the children of school age. These essential supplies represent an important step toward a future filled with knowledge and opportunities for these promising young minds.

Additionally, we provided food to the parents who, with unwavering support, encourage their children's education. Their commitment is a true source of inspiration and deserves our full recognition.





DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL KITS IN LEFOUTOU, KOMONO DISTRICT



On October 15, 2023, we had the immense honor of visiting the indigenous community of the India Block in Lefoutou, within the Komono District. Under a bright sun, we brought the light of education to these exceptional children.

All students, from primary school to high school, received a school kit to help them begin their studies. These tools are the keys that open the doors to the future, and every smile on their faces is a victory for us.



But our commitment does not end there. We also distributed soap and matches to the families who send their children to school, encouraging them to continue supporting their children's education.

We believe in a brighter future for these young minds, and we are deeply grateful to all those who made this day possible. Together, we are lighting the path of education, hope, and opportunity.

"Education is the foundation upon which strong and resilient communities are built."



VISIT TO LEWEME: A MISSION OF HOPE AND SOLIDARITY

On October 15, 2023, we had the honor of visiting the indigenous community of Leweme in the Bambama district. The pouring rain did not deter our dedicated team, as the significance of this mission outweighed the weather. The children of Leweme were filled with joy and excitement at the sight of our "Espace Opoko" vehicle, a symbol of hope and possibilities for a better future.

Despite the unpredictable weather, we were able to distribute school kits to all the children of school age. The gratitude and pride radiated on the faces of the parents, knowing that their children would be starting school this Monday.

This event was much more than just a distribution of school supplies. It was a moment of sharing, connection, and hope. We firmly believe that education is the key that opens the doors to the future, and our commitment to these indigenous communities is unwavering.





Rental of a Housing for Education in Komono: A Response to the Urgent Needs of the Children of Moutouala

Kissangou Grace's story, a young indigenous girl from the village of Moutouala, perfectly illustrates the challenges faced by many children in indigenous communities. In 2022, Grace obtained her Primary School Certificate (CEPE). However, continuing her secondary education proved impossible: the nearest school is located 12 kilometers from her village, an unthinkable daily walk.

Without the means to rent housing in Komono and meet her educational needs, Grace had to abandon her studies for an entire year. This year, her younger brother, Kissangou Belvin, after having brilliantly obtained his CEPE, was at risk of facing the same educational tragedy.

In response to this situation, and as part of our commitment to supporting the education of indigenous children, we made a concrete decision: to rent an apartment in Komono to house Grace, Belvin, and other children in similar situations. This accommodation not only broke the barrier of distance but also provided them with a safe and conducive environment for learning.

We firmly believe that every child deserves an equal opportunity to access education. This housing is a first step in our vision to ensure sustainable educational opportunities for these young people in this part of the country.



Moukoko Vicharlain



Madzou Sametone

New Beginnings: Two Indigenous High School Students Welcomed in Sibiti

This year, our high school dormitory for Indigenous students in Sibiti welcomed two new students, joining the eight others already cared for in this unique space where they are provided with free housing, food, and healthcare.

Moukoko Vicharlain: An Electrifying Dream

Moukoko Vicharlain, an orphan for many years, carries an ambitious dream: to bring electricity to his village. Despite the challenges, he walked 12 kilometers daily for four years to attend the nearest technical high school and obtained his Technical Studies Certificate this year.

Pursuing his studies in Sibiti, located 78 kilometers from his home, seemed impossible. However, thanks to our dormitory, this dream is no longer out of reach. Today, Moukoko continues his educational journey with determination, confident that he will turn his dream into reality.

Madzou Sametone: An Educational Rebirth

Madzou Sametone faced a devastating ordeal in 2020 when he had to leave school due to the death of his father. Returning to his village seemed like the end of his dreams. However, an unexpected opportunity changed the course of his life: the chance to join our dormitory. With courage and faith, Madzou knocked on our door, ready to seize this unique chance. Moved by his determination, we decided to remove the financial barriers and offer him a future where education becomes possible again.

These two young individuals embody resilience and hope. Their presence in Sibiti illustrates our commitment to giving every Indigenous child the chance to dream and succeed, regardless of their circumstances.

By welcoming Moukoko and Madzou, our dormitory becomes much more than a place of shelter. It is a springboard to a future where dreams, even the most distant, can be reached.



Follow-up Missions for Equitable and Inclusive Education

This year, we conducted several follow-up missions to schools to ensure a smooth and equitable education for the students in our program. These visits had a dual purpose:

1. To monitor the academic progress of the students by evaluating their development and identifying their specific needs.
2. To address issues of discrimination observed in certain classrooms between Bantu and indigenous students.

During these missions, we were able to intervene in delicate situations by working closely with teachers, students, and their families to promote a climate of respect and inclusion.

These efforts helped defuse several tensions, creating a more conducive environment for learning.

Mr. Jeremie Ngoma,
Director of the Secondary School of
Bambama

The Importance of These Interventions

Education is not just about the transmission of knowledge; it is also a vehicle for social cohesion and the recognition of the rights of all children. These follow-up missions have proven to have a significant impact by:

1. Promoting the integration of indigenous students into schools.
2. Raising awareness among teachers and students about the need for equal treatment.
3. Strengthening the confidence of indigenous students in their ability to succeed despite social and cultural challenges.
- 4.

Through these efforts, we are helping to build a more inclusive school system where every child, regardless of their background, can learn and grow in a respectful and supportive environment.



Supporting Success in State Exams: Tutorials for Our Students

Our mission goes far beyond sending children to school. It also involves ensuring their success in state exams, a crucial lever for their academic and professional future. That's why, once again this year, we organized tutorial sessions (TDs) specifically designed for our candidates for the Baccalaureate and the BEPC.

TDs Tailored to Students' Needs

- In Sibiti, 17 high school students from our boarding school received intensive coaching in: Mathematics, Physics-Chemistry, Life and Earth Sciences (SVT), French, and Philosophy.
- In Bambama, 45 third-year students attended TD sessions in key subjects: Mathematics, Physics-Chemistry, SVT, French, History-Geography, and English.

These intensive sessions, led by qualified and experienced teachers, provided our students with opportunities to deepen their knowledge, ask questions, and effectively prepare for the exams.

The Impact on Educational Success

These tutorial sessions represent essential support for our students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, by offering them:

- Targeted preparation for the state exam requirements.
- A conducive learning environment that fosters motivation.
- An opportunity to strengthen their self-confidence and ambition to succeed.

We firmly believe that every student, with the right guidance and support, can achieve excellence. These TDs are not only an immediate response to educational challenges but also a sustainable investment in the future of these young indigenous students.



Launch of Tutorial Sessions at the Boarding School for Indigenous High School Students in Sibiti, in the Presence of the Principal of Lycée Augustin Poinet and the Departmental Director of Primary Education.



Launch of Tutorial Sessions at the CEG of Bambama

Support for Indigenous Students for the Primary and Elementary School Certificate Examination

As part of our awareness campaign on the importance of education, we encountered a concerning situation in the districts of Mokeko and Sembe, where 22 indigenous students enrolled in the 5th grade were unable to participate in the Primary and Elementary School Certificate examination due to financial difficulties. Access to the examination centers and the need for food during this period were insurmountable obstacles for these children.

In response to this reality, we acted quickly to provide the necessary support. Thanks to our intervention, these 22 students were able to reach the examination centers and participate in the exams, marking a crucial step for their future. This commitment reflects our determination to ensure that every child, without exception, has the opportunity to succeed and access a better future through education.



Primary School of Comon
in the Sangha



Exchanges with the parents of students
in the indigenous community of Comon in the Sangha

Exchanges with the parents of students in the indigenous community of Seka in the Sangha.





BEFORE



AFTER

Renovation of the School Building at Liele Nkama Primary School in Bambama.

As part of our commitment to ensuring that our children study in optimal conditions, we do not simply send students to school, but we also focus on the rehabilitation of school infrastructures. On January 20, 2024, heavy rain caused the entire roof of a school building at Liele Nkama Primary School in Bambama to collapse.

This building, which housed a classroom, a food storage room for the school canteen managed by the World Food Programme, as well as an administrative office, was crucial for the smooth operation of the school.

Aware that many children in the village are motivated to attend school largely due to the school canteen, we took the initiative to mobilize the necessary funds for the rehabilitation of this building.

Thanks to the generosity of the Baptist Church of Beauce in Canada, we were able to completely rebuild the roof, allowing the students to continue their learning in good conditions. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to providing our children with a safe and conducive school environment for their success.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

2- Environmental Education

**"THE EARTH IS NOT AN
INHERITANCE FROM OUR
ANCESTORS, BUT A LOAN
FROM OUR CHILDREN."**



Creation of the Environmental Education Department within our organization.



As part of our commitment to promoting holistic and sustainable education, we have created a new department within our organization: the Environmental Education Department.

This department embodies our vision of education that extends beyond the classroom by integrating core values for the preservation of our planet and sustainable development. The missions of this department are centered around five main areas:

1- Environmental Awareness and Education:

Our goal is to provide younger generations with the tools and knowledge necessary to understand environmental issues and adopt nature-friendly practices.

2- Valorization of Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Knowledge

- The traditional practices and knowledge of indigenous communities represent an invaluable resource for the preservation of ecosystems. This department aims to promote and integrate this wisdom into educational programs.
- Orientation Towards Environmental Careers
- In partnership with various organizations, we are committed to providing indigenous youth with opportunities and training to pursue careers related to environmental protection, making them true guardians of our planet.
- Strengthening the Global Education of Children
- Environmental education will be integrated into school curricula, thus enriching children's knowledge on essential topics such as natural resource management, biodiversity, and climate change.
- Contribution to Global and National Preservation Efforts
- Through this department, we reaffirm our commitment to actively participate in the preservation of the planet by supporting international community and Congolese government initiatives to tackle environmental challenges.

Throughout this school year, several actions were taken in line with these goals, strengthening our collaboration with key stakeholders engaged in environmental protection. We remain determined to make environmental education a fundamental pillar in building a sustainable future for current and future generations.

pour chaque enfant

unicef 

for every child



Arlette Soudan Nonault,

Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and the Congo Basin

Participation in the Drafting of the Youth Manifesto for the Protection of the Congo Basin

This year, our organization proudly participated, alongside 12 representatives from youth associations, in drafting the Youth Manifesto of Congo for the Protection of the Congo Basin, titled "Act Today for the Preservation of the Congo Basin."

This manifesto highlights the major challenges identified by young people and proposes a collaborative and participatory action plan aimed at protecting the unique biodiversity of this region, which is essential for the global ecosystem.

This initiative was supported by UNICEF Congo and the Ministry of the Environment, demonstrating the importance of synergy between institutional actors, international partners, and civil society organizations.

It also reflects our commitment to amplifying the voices of indigenous communities in discussions and actions for environmental preservation.

Upon completion of its drafting, the manifesto was officially presented to Madame Arlette Soudan Nonault, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and the Congo Basin, during a large-scale ceremony. This meeting was attended by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Congo, representatives from UNICEF, as well as members of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

We are honored to have contributed to this project, which represents the voice of the youth of the Republic of Congo. The manifesto calls for collective awareness and concrete actions to preserve the biodiversity of the Congo Basin, while strengthening the role of youth in the fight against climate change and ecosystem degradation.

This experience marks a significant step toward increased mobilization of young people and communities for a sustainable future. We renew our commitment to working with all partners to transform the aspirations of this manifesto into tangible actions for the protection of our natural heritage.



Family photo after writing the manifesto.

Sommet des trois Bassins



Summit of the three Basins

de Biodiversité et des forêts Tropicales
26 au 28 Octobre 2023
Conférence de Kintélé, Brazzaville, République du Congo

Of Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forest
26 to 28 October 2023
International Conference Center of Kintélé, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Construire une coalition mondiale
Building a global coalition



Participation in the Summit of the Three Tropical Rainforest Basins.

Our organization actively participated in the Summit of the Three Tropical Rainforest Basins, held from October 26 to 28, 2023, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. This event brought together leaders from the Amazon, Congo Basin, and Borneo-Mekong-Southeast Asia regions to form a global coalition dedicated to the preservation of tropical forests, which are essential for climate regulation and global biodiversity.

For us, this summit represented a crucial opportunity to amplify the voices of indigenous communities, whose ancestral practices and knowledge play a fundamental role in preserving ecosystems. It also reinforced our commitment to collaborate with international actors in the fight against deforestation and climate change, while highlighting the importance of local initiatives to protect the Congo Basin, the planet's second green lung.



Our Commitment to the CIAR1: Afforestation and the Fight Against Climate Change

This year, our organization had the honor of participating in the International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation (CIAR1), a global event dedicated to restoring forest landscapes and combating climate change.

Alongside the African Union, the African Development Bank, UN agencies, the European Union, and other organizations, we contributed to discussions aimed at developing nature-based solutions and increasing global forest cover through international cooperation.

Represented by Vanessa Nzouba, our delegate in Brazzaville, and Richy Cedrick Tsikayassi, head of our Environmental Education Department, we advocated for the voices of local and indigenous communities, highlighting their key role in preserving tropical forests and sequestering atmospheric carbon.

Our participation reflects our commitment to engaging in large-scale international initiatives to preserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and build a more sustainable future.

Represented by Vanessa Nzouba, our delegate in Brazzaville, and Richy Cedrick Tsikayassi, head of our Environmental Education Department, we advocated for the voices of local and indigenous communities, highlighting their key role in preserving tropical forests and sequestering atmospheric carbon.

Our participation reflects our commitment to engaging in large-scale international initiatives to preserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and build a more sustainable future.



Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy





Paul Makita, responding to questions from journalists in front of the Minister of Forest Economy.

Participation in the Tree Planting Session in Brazzaville.

As part of the preparations for the first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation (CIAR1), we had the honor of accepting the invitation from Madame Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy, to participate in a tree planting session.

This event, focused on ecological commitment and biodiversity preservation, provided a unique opportunity to strengthen our support for government initiatives in environmental protection.

During this activity, Paul Makita, a representative of our organization, had the honor of officially presenting to Madame the Minister the Manifesto of the Youth of Congo for Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Preservation.

This symbolic gesture underscores our determination to collaborate with stakeholders to preserve our ecosystems and promote collective action for the environment.



Vanessa Nzouba, representative of Espace Opoko in Brazzaville.





Mr. the Sub-Prefect of the Bambama District, his office, and the members of Espace Opoko.

Participation in the Tree Planting Session in Bambama.

This year, our team in Bambama enthusiastically participated in the 38th anniversary of Arbor Day, an initiative organized by the Sub-Prefect of Bambama. The central activity of the day, tree planting, allowed us to reaffirm our commitment to environmental protection.

Planting trees is a concrete way to fight deforestation, preserve biodiversity, and contribute to a sustainable future. Each tree planted symbolizes hope for a more stable climate, more fertile soils, and cleaner air.

We express our deep gratitude to the Sub-Prefect for his inspiring leadership and are proud to have participated in this collective effort for our environment and future generations.



"The tree you plant today will provide shade for your children tomorrow."

Averty Ndzoyi



Participation in the Forest Management Forum in Brazzaville.



Our Brazzaville office participated in the Forest Management Forum organized by the NGO Éveil d'Afrique, held from March 14 to 15, 2024. This event served as an enriching platform for discussions on crucial issues, such as the impact of climate change on indigenous communities and the promotion of professions related to carbon credit sales.



Represented by Vanessa Nzouba, Alex Nzambi, and Ombi Habibe, we actively contributed to the discussions, sharing our expertise and experiences on sustainable forest management. This event reinforced our commitment to protecting our environment and promoting innovative solutions for a more sustainable future. We look forward to integrating the knowledge gained into our future projects for the well-being of indigenous communities and the preservation of our forests.

Jesse Alex during his intervention.



COLLECTION OF SCHOOL KITS FOR 956 INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

You can donate a notebook and a pen, or make a mobile money deposit, even if it's just 200 Frs. Every gesture counts and will help provide essential supplies for 1,050 children.

Without your help, these children will not be able to go to school.

- Every gesture opens a door to the future.
- Every donation builds a future.
- Every donation plants the seeds of success.

Until
September
15, 2024

MAKE A DONATION



Mobile Money



Call us

+242 06 937 99 23

+242 06 581 1286 +242 04 457 0469

www.espaceopoko.org



EDUCATION FOR ALL

III- Collaborations

**"ANTS, THOUGH SMALL, ARE
POWERFUL TOGETHER, AND
THEIR STRENGTH LIES IN
THEIR UNITY."**





Opening of Our New Headquarters in Bambama: A Step Towards the Future



April 14, 2024, will remain a landmark date for our organization with the official opening of our new headquarters in Bambama. This emotional event marked the beginning of a new era for our presence in the district and our commitment to the local community.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the local authorities, partners, and everyone present at the ceremony. Their support and participation reinforced the significance of this space, which has now become a crucial gathering point for our team and the Bambama community.



This headquarters is not just an office, but a true hub for exchange, coordination, and development of our activities in the district. It symbolizes our commitment to being closer to local populations and strengthening our impact in key areas such as education, health, and environmental preservation.

We are confident that this new headquarters will be an essential driver for collaboration with local stakeholders and the success of our long-term projects.

Members of the Espace Opoko Bambama office.

Some activities carried out by our team in Bambama.



We cleared the shortcut leading to the school.



We installed locks to secure the doors at the Bambama Integrated Health Center.



We cleared the swamp that was obstructing the passage to the indigenous community of Bambama.



We carried out a thorough cleaning operation of all the rooms at the Integrated Health Center.



We cleared a secondary road that connects the two neighborhoods.



Our team in Bambama.

Delivery of Medical Equipment to the Bambama Integrated Health Center: A Partnership for Community Health

On June 23, 2024, we had the honor of delivering a significant set of medical equipment to the Bambama Integrated Health Center, in response to the urgent needs identified during the opening of our headquarters in the district.

Thanks to the generosity of the Baptist Church of Beauce in Canada, this valuable donation enabled us to provide essential equipment, such as modern delivery and hospitalization beds, a stethoscope, an otoscope, a medical scale, electronic blood pressure monitors, a small surgery kit, waterproof mattresses for hospital beds, staff uniforms, sheets and bed covers for hospitalization and delivery beds, mosquito nets, crib mattresses, as well as surgical bandages for large traumatic wounds. We also provided various reagents for medical tests, 100 rapid malaria tests, and several essential medications for tropical zones.

This equipment is of critical importance not only for the overall health of the local population but also for the students in our education program. By ensuring improved access to medical care, we are safeguarding the health and well-being of our children, which is essential to their academic success. Students who receive proper medical follow-up are better protected against common illnesses, which directly contributes to improved school attendance and more favorable outcomes.

This donation would not have been possible without our strong partnership with the Baptist Church of Beauce, whose contribution was instrumental. We also extend our thanks to the AGORAcare medical laboratory for their assistance in purchasing quality equipment, as well as to the local authorities for their continued support.





Our Notable Participation in the General Assembly of the Youth Advisory Council

In March 2024, we had the honor of seeing our indigenous youth actively participate in the Youth Advisory Council. During this event, Paul Makita, a representative of our program, played a key role in advocating for the rights of indigenous children to education. He strongly challenged the misconception that indigenous people do not value formal education, explaining that this perception is fueled by obstacles such as stigma, marginalization, and financial constraints.

Paul also denounced the non-implementation of decrees guaranteeing access to scholarships and reserved spots for indigenous students from their first year of university, emphasizing the importance of enforcing these decrees to give these young people the same opportunities for success as their peers.

This intervention was a pivotal moment for the empowerment of our youth and highlights the importance of providing our indigenous students with the tools to defend their rights and advocate for a more equitable future. We are proud of their contribution and their role in this fight for equal opportunities.



Hugues NGOUELONDELE,
Minister of Youth and Sports, Civic Education,
Vocational Training, and Employment



Partnership with the Lékoumou Departmental Council

As part of our mission in the Lékoumou department, our communication manager, Alex Jesse Ndzoyi Nzambi, had the honor of being received by the President of the Departmental Council, Jacques Ongotto. During this fruitful meeting, we discussed our activities and explored avenues for collaboration, particularly regarding the education of indigenous children.

This meeting also provided an opportunity to present our annual activity report, and we received assurance of the president's support for our future initiatives. We would like to express our sincere thanks to President Ongotto for his warm welcome and commitment.

We will continue consultations with the Lékoumou Departmental Council to develop a sustainable collaboration, essential to the success of our long-term projects.



Jesse Alex, presenting our annual report to the President of the Lékoumou Departmental Council.

Towards a Strong Partnership for a Sustainable Future!

In May 2024, our Brazzaville office had the honor of holding a productive working session with the organization *Éveil d'Afrique* Ong, dedicated to promoting sustainable development in the Republic of Congo.

Alongside President Ugain Kaya Mikala and his dynamic team, we explored exciting opportunities to establish a strong partnership. The goal is to strengthen our joint efforts in promoting green culture, raising awareness about energy transition, and respecting the rights of indigenous populations.

We are currently continuing discussions to finalize this partnership and implement innovative and impactful initiatives that will benefit both our communities and our environment. We are confident that this shared commitment will pave the way for a more just and sustainable future.



An Unprecedented Musical Collaboration



The Congolese artist Youyou Mobangue Debrazza

As the International Day of Indigenous Peoples on August 9th approaches, we launched a unique musical project that brought together the talented indigenous artist Canon Rapide from the Mokeko district in Sangha and the famous Congolese artist Youyou Mobangue Debrazza. This collaboration resulted in the song "Autochtone," a powerful anthem that highlights the importance of solidarity with indigenous peoples.

This project not only helped to valorize indigenous culture but also opened a dialogue about their rights and inclusion in Congolese society. The song has been warmly received by Congolese people and has contributed to raising awareness among a wide audience about the crucial issues facing indigenous peoples. It is now available on YouTube, accessible by scanning the following code.



Scan the code to read the report online
Scan the code to read the report online



The artist Canon Rapide

This musical project is an important step towards the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' rights, while strengthening bonds of solidarity through culture. We are proud of this initiative, which demonstrates the positive impact of collaboration between artists and communities to amplify the voice of indigenous peoples.

Our Official Membership in RENAPAC: A Decisive Partnership for Indigenous Peoples' Rights

This year marks a significant milestone for our organization: after two years of fruitful collaboration, we have officially joined the National Network of Indigenous Peoples of Congo (RENAPAC). This integration represents a crucial step in our mission to promote and defend the rights of Indigenous peoples.



*The Communications Officer of Espace Opoko and
the President of RENAPAC*

By joining RENAPAC, we strengthen our commitment to the rights, inclusion, and development of Indigenous communities. This affiliation gives us privileged access to an active national network and a shared platform where we can exchange ideas, share resources, and join forces with other committed organizations.

This strategic partnership will enhance the coordination of our efforts, amplify the voice of Indigenous peoples across the country, and foster collaboration on large-scale initiatives for their well-being. We are confident that this collaboration will have a lasting and meaningful impact on the communities we serve.

A Partnership with KIMINOOU to Strengthen Education and Local Development

This year, we signed a strategic partnership with the KIMINOOU association, whose actions are dedicated to promoting education and community development.

This partnership represents an important step in our efforts to improve access to education for indigenous children and support innovative projects for sustainable development.

Together, we are combining our expertise and resources to address the educational and social challenges faced by local communities.

We are confident that this collaboration will open new opportunities for the children and families we serve, while strengthening our capacity to meet the growing needs of vulnerable populations.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

VI- Training

**"THE CHILD WHO IS TRAINED
TODAY WILL BECOME THE TREE
UNDER WHOSE SHADE THE
VILLAGE WILL REST TOMORROW."**



Training in Management and Volunteering

This year, our team based in Brazzaville had the opportunity to participate in a trainer and youth training program focused on managing activities related to the promotion of volunteering for sustainable development.

Initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Civic Education, Vocational Training, and Employment, as well as CONFES (Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of La Francophonie), this training has helped strengthen our organizational skills and enrich our approach to community development.

The knowledge gained by our team, particularly in project management and youth engagement, is crucial for the implementation of our actions. It enables us to better structure our initiatives, promote voluntary involvement within communities, and contribute more effectively to building a sustainable future.

We sincerely thank our partners for this valuable opportunity, which enhances our ability to turn ideas into concrete actions for the well-being of the population.

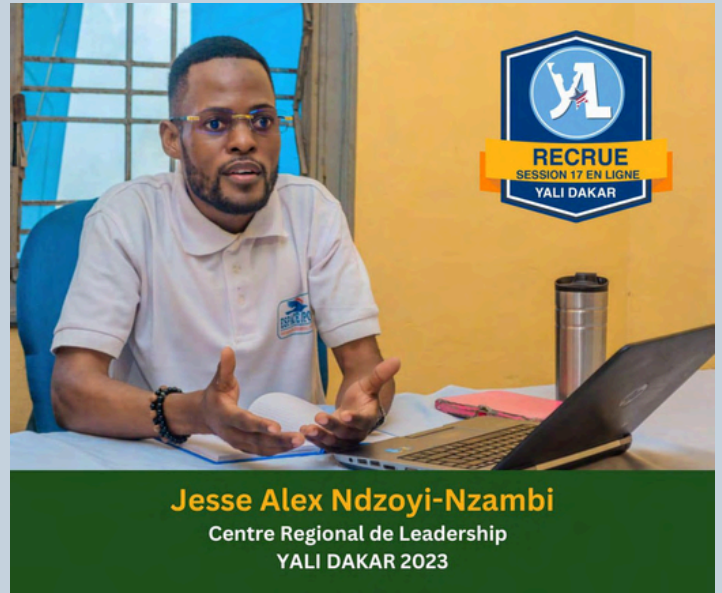


Civic Leadership Training at the YALI Center in Dakar

This year, our communications officer had the honor of participating in a civic leadership training at the prestigious Leadership Center in Dakar, as part of the U.S. government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) program.

This intensive training, focused on developing skills in strategic communication, community project management, and transformative leadership, marks a significant advancement for our organization.

By strengthening her abilities, our communications officer is now better equipped to deliver our messages, mobilize our partners, and inspire the communities we serve.



Civic Leadership Training at the YALI Center in Dakar

Our Director of the Environmental Education Department had the valuable opportunity to participate in a civic leadership training at the YALI Leadership Center in Dakar, as part of the U.S. government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) program.

This experience allowed him to strengthen his skills in environmental project management, community mobilization, and advocacy for sustainable policies. The knowledge gained during this training enriches our ability to raise awareness and take action for environmental protection.

Thanks to this training, our organization now has a leader who is even better equipped to lead innovative and impactful initiatives in the field of environmental education.

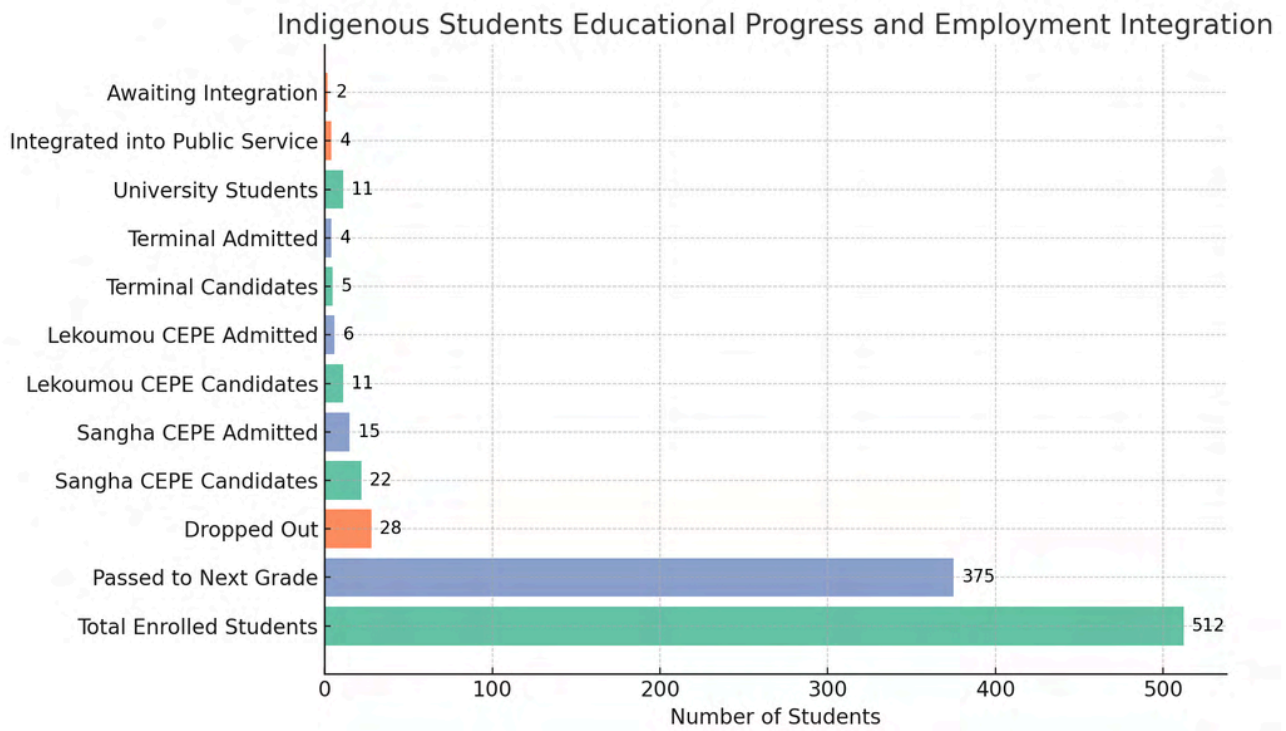


EDUCATION FOR ALL

V- Results

**"LES PREUVES CONCRÈTES DE
RÉUSSITE SONT PLUS PUISSANTES
QUE LES SIMPLES INTENTIONS OU
DISCOURS."**





Overall Summary of Results:

Enrollment and Promotion to the Next Grade:

- This year, 512 indigenous students were enrolled, with 375 successfully advancing to the next grade, representing approximately 73% of those enrolled. However, 28 students dropped out, although 12 of them have returned to school this year.

Primary School Certificate (CEPE) Results:

- In the Sangha region, 15 out of 22 candidates were admitted (68%), while 7 did not pass. In the Lekoumou region, 6 out of 11 candidates were admitted (55%), with 5 not passing.

Results for the High School Diploma):

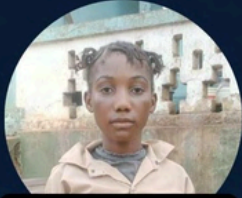
- Out of the 5 candidates in their final year, 4 were admitted to university, yielding a success rate of 80%, while 1 candidate was not admitted.

Job Search for University Students:

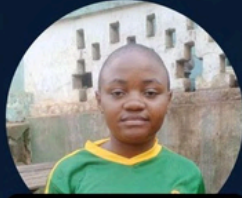
- Among the 11 university students, 4 have found employment in the public sector, representing approximately 36%, while 7 have yet to secure employment. Furthermore, the two students who completed their training at the National School of Water and Forests have not yet been recruited, highlighting an additional challenge in their professional integration.

Our 2024 Primary and Elementary School Certificate Results In Sangha

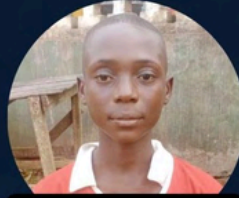
Out of the 22 Indigenous candidates we presented for the Primary and Elementary School Certificate (CEPE) in Sangha, 15 were admitted, including 4 private candidates. This results in a success rate of 68.18%.



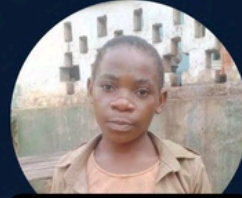
Madzadza Rolcia
ATTENTION



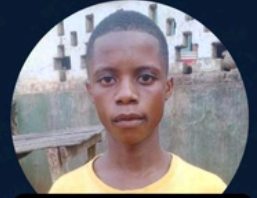
Niode Ozelle
ATTENTION



Babingui Bertos
ATTENTION



Ndengue Stevine
ATTENTION



Ghue Reve
ATTENTION



Bolondzi Moise
MOYOYE



Samongodobe S
MOYOYE



Mokeko Bijoux
MOYOYE



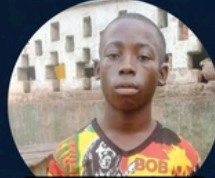
Mabenza Dieu M
COMON



Ndjoa Steve
KOKOUA



Matoba Geoffroy
BIESSI



Boyas Wilfrid
ATTENTION



Koumangngs F
ATTENTION



Ahoudou Estafa
ATTENTION



bangui Elvis
ATTENTION

Results of the CEPE (Certificate of Primary Education) in the Sangha – 2024

Out of a total of 22 candidates presented for the Certificate of Primary Education (CEPE) in the Sangha, 15 successfully obtained their diploma, representing a success rate of 68%.

This achievement reflects the sustained efforts of the students, teachers, and families, despite the challenges faced by our communities.

We are particularly proud of these results, which demonstrate that our children are capable of overcoming obstacles and succeeding in their educational journey.

However, it is important to note that 7 candidates were not admitted this year. These results remind us of the importance of continuing to support the education of indigenous children, ensuring that they have the necessary resources to succeed.

We remain committed to strengthening our support to further improve success rates in the coming years, with the goal of providing all our children with the best opportunities for their future.

Out of the 11 Indigenous candidates we presented for the Primary and Elementary School Certificate (CEPE) in Lekoumou, 6 were admitted, resulting in a success rate of 54.55%.



TSOUMOU Beljona
BAMBAMA



BOUNA Registance
BAMBAMA



NGATALI Saturnin
LEWEME



MATONDO Delhi
INDO



LIMINGUI Damas
INDO



NZAMA Armeline
INDO

Results of the CEPE (Certificate of Primary Education) in Lekoumou – 2024

Out of a total of 11 candidates presented for the Certificate of Primary Education (CEPE) in Lekoumou, 6 were admitted, representing a success rate of 55%. While these results reflect progress, there are still challenges to overcome in order to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to succeed.

The 5 candidates who were not admitted this year require our attention and increased support to help them overcome the challenges they faced. We will continue to work closely with families, teachers, and communities to improve the preparation and success of our children in future exams.

Our commitment to the education of indigenous children remains a top priority, and we are determined to provide each student with the resources and support they need to succeed. These results serve as a call to action to strengthen our efforts to ensure equitable and quality education for all.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES!



Julie

Indo
Lekoumou

Rebecca

Komono
Lekoumou

Gaston

Mokeko
Sangha

Sagesse

Bambama
Lekoumou

Let's give them the opportunity to enter university.

Tel: +242 06 937 9923
Mail: info@espaceopoko.org

www.espaceopoko.org

High School Diploma Results – 2024

This year, our program presented 5 candidates from indigenous communities. Of these, 4 successfully earned their diplomas, achieving a success rate of 80%. Among the successful candidates, we commend Julie, from the village of Indo in Lékoumou, and Gaston, from Mokeko in Sangha, who excelled in the scientific track. In the literary track, we celebrate the successes of Rebecca, from Komono, and Sagesse, from Bambama, in the Lékoumou department.

These admissions bring the total number of indigenous university students benefiting from our program to 14, a true testament to the ongoing commitment and efforts to provide our youth with opportunities for higher education.

We are particularly proud to see these young talents embarking on university journeys, ready to transform their future and that of their communities.

We also congratulate those who were not admitted this year, particularly in the literary track, and encourage them to persevere. Every challenge overcome is a step toward success, and we remain committed to providing all our students with the resources they need to succeed and achieve their dreams.

Education remains a priority for us, and these results are an inspiration to continue investing in the future of our youth, ensuring equitable and quality education for all.

Results in the Baccalaureate, Parallel Program "Bantou and Indigenous Gathering" – 2024

In February 2024, we launched tutorial sessions in all subjects within our indigenous high school dormitory in Sibiti, with the goal of raising the academic level of a group of indigenous and Bantou students preparing for the baccalaureate. This program aimed to provide additional academic support to maximize their chances of success in the baccalaureate exams.



At the start of this initiative, 17 students agreed to participate in the tutorial sessions. After several months of intensive work, we are pleased to announce that, of these 17 students, 15 have successfully passed the baccalaureate, achieving a pass rate of 88.24%. While the initial goal was to reach a 100% pass rate, we are extremely proud of this high percentage, which reflects the commitment and efforts of both the students and the educational staff.

This success demonstrates the positive impact of this support program and underscores the importance of providing tailored academic assistance to our students, whether they are indigenous or Bantou, to help them overcome academic challenges and achieve their goals.





Results of tutorial sessions in middle school.

For the second consecutive year, we implemented tutorial sessions aimed at improving the academic performance of our students and achieving a pass rate close to 100% in the BEPC. This initiative helped strengthen the students' skills and effectively prepared them for the demands of this exam.

Out of the 45 candidates presented this year, 44 were declared successful, representing an outstanding pass rate of 97%. This result marks a significant improvement compared to last year, when we recorded a pass rate of 93%, showing an increase of 4%. This success is the result of the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the continued support of our partners.

We are particularly proud of these results, which reflect the effectiveness of our tutorial program and the positive impact of our educational support. We will continue to do everything possible to provide our students with the best chances of success and prepare them for a promising future.



Discussion with the principal of the middle school of Bambama

The Integration of Our Students into the Public Service: A Revolution to Break a Myth and Inspire Future Generations

In 2024, we witnessed a significant breakthrough that marked a turning point in the history of indigenous communities. For a long time, a deeply rooted myth persisted: that no matter the effort, an indigenous person could never access a position in the public service or hold meaningful responsibilities.

Today, thanks to the invaluable support of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Indigenous Peoples, and especially through the efforts of the Directorate General of Indigenous Peoples, this myth has been shattered.

We are proud to announce that four of our final-year students have been integrated into the public service:

- Paul and Idris have joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- Divin has been assigned to the Ministry of the Interior.
- Habib has joined the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Indigenous Peoples.

This integration represents much more than a simple individual achievement. It has had a profound and lasting impact on indigenous communities, inspiring a sense of hope and possibility. From now on, young indigenous people can dream of a future where their efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

These successes serve as catalysts, motivating children to persevere in their studies, with the conviction that a better future is possible.

This milestone also symbolizes progress towards the social and professional inclusion of indigenous peoples, promoting their representation in decision-making spheres. Espace Opoko will continue to work with determination to strengthen these gains and provide indigenous children with the means to realize their ambitions.



Paul Makita has become an Education Ambassador in the Indigenous Communities of Sibiti.

One of the main objectives of our program is to provide young indigenous people with the skills necessary to become agents of change within their own communities.

This year, Paul Makita, a student supported by our program, undertook an exceptional mission by visiting schools around Sibiti. His goal was to understand the situation of indigenous students, identify children of school age in the surrounding communities, and engage with them about the importance of education.

These interactions have been crucial in raising awareness among indigenous youth about the impact of education in their lives and encouraging them to continue their studies in order to build a better future.

We are proud to have supported Paul in this noble mission and are pleased to share with you some photos capturing these valuable moments of exchange and dialogue.



Sagesse Bambama has become a Pioneer of Education and Community Engagement.

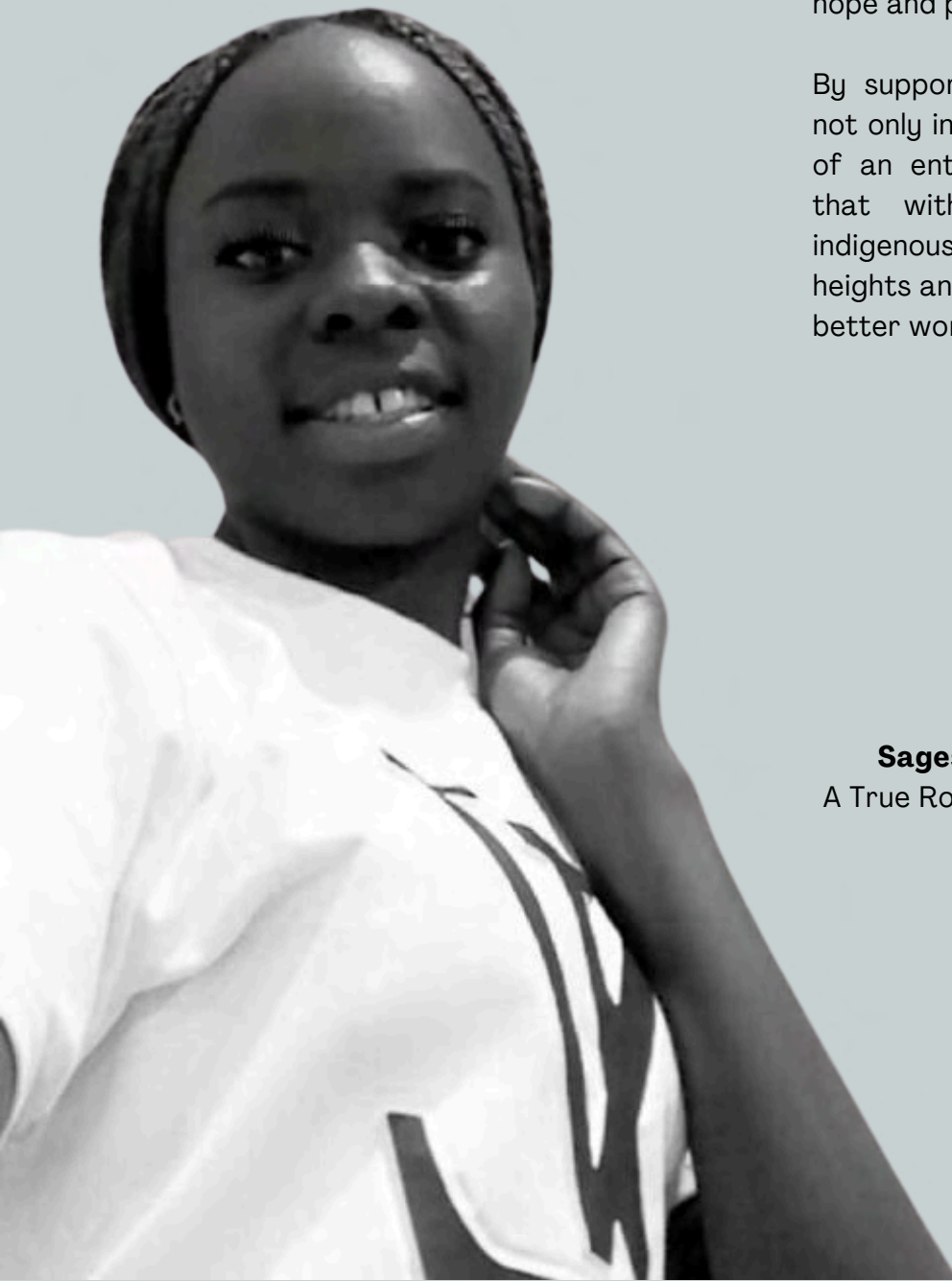
Sagesse Bambama made history by becoming the first indigenous girl in the history of the Bambama district to obtain the Baccalaureate.

This academic achievement is a testament to her determination and commitment to education and the development of her community. Last year, Sagesse was also elected as a junior deputy in the children's parliament, a position that allowed her to represent and advocate for the interests of the youth in her community.

Her current dream is to win the Social Affairs contest, a crucial step that will enable her to contribute more effectively to improving the living conditions of her people. Her passion and dedication to community service are unwavering, and she aspires to play a central role in social reforms and development initiatives.

The story of Sagesse Bambama is that of an exceptional young woman who has broken barriers and inspires an entire generation. Her journey symbolizes the hope and potential of indigenous girls.

By supporting Sagesse, we are investing not only in her future but also in the future of an entire community. She has proven that with support and opportunities, indigenous youth can reach remarkable heights and become agents of change for a better world.



Sagesse Cleche Bambama
A True Role Model of Success in Her
Community

EDUCATION FOR ALL

VI- Celebrations

"THE RIVER BEGINS WITH A DROP, AND EVERY DROP DESERVES A DANCE."





Celebrating Small Victories to Inspire Great Ambitions

At Espace Opoko, we believe in the importance of celebrating every milestone on the path to progress. This year, once again, we honored our students who passed the BEPC and Baccalauréat exams during a memorable celebration in Bambama. Young people from all the villages in the district gathered to share in this moment of pride and collective joy.

Averty Ndzoyi, president of Espace Opoko, marked the day with an inspiring speech, emphasizing the responsibility that each student carries as an ambassador of the district. He said, "When you leave the village for Sibiti or Brazzaville, know that you carry the responsibility of making your district proud through your results, behavior, and thoughts. The village will eagerly await your return, hoping that you will go to further your education and come back to give back to the community what it has given you."

The celebration was filled with dances, a shared meal, and moments of connection. Each student left motivated, with a clear goal: to succeed in their studies, become an agent of change, and honor their community.

By celebrating these small victories, we sow the seeds of great ambitions and future transformations for our communities.





Celebration of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples' Rights

This year, the International Day of Indigenous Peoples' Rights was celebrated with great enthusiasm in our community. The ceremony, held in Bambama, brought together key stakeholders, including the police commissioner, the head of the national gendarmerie brigade, neighborhood chiefs, local elders, and representatives from both indigenous and Bantu communities.

At the heart of the celebration was the spotlight on Law No. 5-2011, dedicated to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous populations.

In his address, the police commissioner reaffirmed the commitment of law enforcement to ensuring these rights are upheld. However, discussions highlighted ongoing challenges, particularly the lack of implementation of this law. Blaise Ngono, an indigenous high school student from Lefoutou, powerfully stated: **"Even elephants, who do not know there is a law protecting them, are better protected than we, the indigenous people."**

Sagesse Bambama, junior deputy, also advocated for better integration of indigenous people into the job market, emphasizing the importance of their active participation in the development of their community and country.

The celebration continued in a festive atmosphere. Games were organized for the children, bringing moments of joy and sharing, followed by an artistic evening hosted by talented artists from Komono and Zanaga.

The Importance of This Celebration

This day was not just a celebration, but a powerful reminder of the challenges to overcome and the opportunities to seize. It facilitated an essential dialogue between authorities, community leaders, and the population. It also highlighted the importance of strengthening the mechanisms for implementing Law No. 5-2011 and promoting a future where the rights of indigenous peoples are respected and valued.

By celebrating this day, we renew our commitment to the cause of indigenous peoples and affirm our determination to build a more inclusive and equitable society.

Some Photos from the Celebration of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples' Rights



The Police Commissioner During His Speech



The Gendarmerie Brigade Commander During His Speech



Ngono Blaise, One of Our Students, During His Speech



Sagesse Bambama, One of Our Students, During Her Speech



Dance Period During the Celebration



Family Photo During the Celebration

Celebration of Our Solidarity Days

Since 2020, we have organized the Solidarity Days annually from December 11 to 15, in memory of Father Rufin M'Bani, one of our greatest supporters. He passed away on December 11, 2020, while transporting sand for the construction of essential infrastructure in the district of Bambama. His dedication remains an inspiration to our community.

These days, celebrated this year in Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Sibiti, and Bambama, provide a special opportunity to pay tribute to his commitment and remind our members of the importance of community service. Through various activities, we honor his memory while strengthening the values of solidarity and collective responsibility that guide our mission.



In Brazzaville, we provided free haircuts for orphans at the Center for the Insertion and Reintegration of Vulnerable Children (CIREV).



In Pointe-Noire, we received a donation of toys and clothes from the associations Dons du Cœur and TOUTARIV.



In Sibiti, we distributed the toys to indigenous children.



In Bambama, we conducted a cleanliness operation at the integrated health center.

Listening and Celebration Day



The Listening Day in Brazzaville



The Listening Day in Pointe-Noire



The Listening Day in Sibiti

Every December 30th, after a year marked by volunteer work and the management of numerous challenges, we organize our Listening and Celebration Day, an essential moment of reflection and celebration. This day brings together the students of our program and our members at various locations to share their experiences and ideas.

The main goal is to give everyone a voice: students and members can make concrete proposals for improvements they would like to see in our activities and organization. These contributions are invaluable in guiding our future actions and strengthening our community impact.

In parallel, this day is an opportunity to recognize and reward members who have particularly distinguished themselves throughout the year, showing our gratitude for their exceptional commitment.

The day ends with a convivial meal and festive dances, symbols of the joy and solidarity that unite us. This annual event reflects our commitment to building a participatory and inclusive organization, where every voice matters and where everyone's efforts are celebrated.

**"He who listens with his heart
builds bridges where others build
walls."**

Averty Ndzoyi

EDUCATION FOR ALL

VII- Challenges Encountered

**"THE RIVER DOES NOT GET
DISCOURAGED BY THE STONES IT
ENCOUNTERS ON ITS PATH; IT
KEEPS FLOWING AROUND THEM
AND MOVING FORWARD."**



Challenges Encountered

This year, despite the progress made and the many successes achieved, we faced several challenges that hindered the smooth execution of certain actions within our educational program for indigenous children. These difficulties emphasize the importance of continuing to receive the necessary support to sustain our efforts and ensure a better educational future for these children.

1- Lack of Financial Resources

One of the major challenges remains the shortage of funds to meet the growing needs of our program. While generous donations have been received, funding is still insufficient to fully cover the costs of school kits, tuition fees, and other essential services. We aim to intensify our fundraising campaigns and expand our network of partners to ensure that every child has access to quality education without financial barriers.

2- Transportation and Accessibility Issues

The rainy season makes transportation particularly difficult, especially for children in the most remote areas. The organization's vehicles, which are in very poor condition, struggle to ensure proper follow-up with schools and communities. This delays efforts to deliver the materials and resources needed for quality education. We seek funding to repair or replace our vehicles to ensure better accessibility to schools and more effective community support, even during the rainy season.

3. Student Housing in Brazzaville

Housing for students in the capital remains a major challenge. Many indigenous students are forced to live in precarious conditions, far from their families, which affects their well-being and academic success. The demand for housing solutions is constantly increasing, but available resources remain limited. We hope to develop new accommodation facilities for students, providing decent living conditions conducive to their academic success.

4. Nutrition and Health of Students

With our limited resources, the issue of nutrition for our high school and university students remains a major challenge. Insufficient or unbalanced diets impact their concentration and academic performance. We aim to strengthen our efforts in nutrition and healthcare by establishing partnerships with local organizations or donors who could help us provide balanced meals and regular medical care.

5. Awareness and Parental Involvement

Although efforts have been made to raise awareness in communities about the importance of education, some parents remain reluctant to send their children to school or support their academic journey. We aim to intensify our awareness campaigns and implement parental support programs to encourage greater parental involvement in their children's education.



Challenges Encountered

6. Lack of Desks and Benches in Some Schools

Several schools still lack desks and benches, making learning difficult and uncomfortable for students. We submitted a request to the General Directorate of Forestry Economics, seeking authorization to cut down three trees to produce these desks and benches. Unfortunately, a year later, this request remains unanswered. We hope this situation can be resolved quickly so that students can benefit from a proper learning environment.

Despite these challenges, we remain determined to continue our commitment to the education of indigenous children. We hope that the support of our partners and the community will help us overcome these obstacles. The coming year will be another opportunity to strengthen our efforts and ensure a brighter future for generations to come.



EDUCATION FOR ALL

VII-

Future Perspectives

**"WHEN YOU WANT TO PLANT A SEED,
DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE SOIL, BUT
IMAGINE THE TREE IT WILL BECOME."**



Future Perspectives

Through our future projects, we are committed to providing a more promising future for indigenous children and their communities. These initiatives aim to address the growing needs and ensure optimal living and educational conditions for future generations. Here are our future perspectives and the importance of each action we wish to implement:

1- Rehabilitation of the People's House in Bambama:

The rehabilitation of this structure will provide a larger and better-equipped hall, suitable for larger-scale activities. This initiative is essential for strengthening our ability to organize events, training sessions, conferences, and community activities, thereby promoting inclusion and the development of our educational and social actions.

2- Launch of a Sewing Training Program for Indigenous Women:

This training will enable women to develop practical sewing skills, allowing them to make clothes for their children. This will have a significant impact on the empowerment of women, reducing dependence on external products and strengthening the local economy while promoting financial independence.

3- Finding Scholarships for High School and University Students:

The search for scholarships for indigenous youth is crucial to improving their living conditions and enabling them to pursue their studies without financial barriers. By providing our students with the opportunity to access higher education, we are paving the way for a better future, where they can actively contribute to the growth and development of their communities.

4- Launch of an Environmental Education Program in Schools:

Environmental education is crucial for raising awareness among young people about ecological issues and the preservation of their natural environment. This program aims to develop a collective consciousness and a sense of responsibility toward nature, thus preparing future generations for a more sustainable future.

5- Launch of a Youth Engagement Program in Sibiti:

It is essential to involve young people in community initiatives and provide them with opportunities for civic engagement. This program aims to encourage young people to take an active role in their community, thereby strengthening social cohesion and a sense of collective responsibility.

6- Continue to Seek Employment Opportunities for Our Students:

The professional integration of young people is a major issue for their development and future. By continuing to seek employment opportunities, we enable our students to apply their skills and access sustainable jobs, thereby reducing the unemployment rate and fostering their personal and community development.

Future Perspectives

7- Continue the Process for the Integration of Two Final-Year Students from the National School of Water and Forests into the Public Service:

The integration of these students into the public service represents a significant advancement for their careers and for the inclusion of indigenous youth in quality jobs. It will contribute to the representation of indigenous communities in public institutions and promote positive change in public policies regarding their education and rights.

8- Complete the Construction of a Secure Boarding School for Indigenous High School Students to Enhance Student Safety:

The construction of a more secure boarding school for our students will help improve their well-being and safety, especially for those coming from remote areas. A quality boarding school will ensure that high school students have an environment conducive to their studies, free from distractions and external dangers, allowing them to focus entirely on their education.

9-Find a Vehicle to Relaunch the Student Transportation Program:

Student transportation is a key element in ensuring their access to education. Finding a suitable vehicle will help relaunch this program, facilitating the movement of students, especially those from rural and remote areas. This will overcome challenges related to geographic isolation, ensuring more effective monitoring and better regularity of students at school.

These projects are essential to strengthen our commitment to the education and well-being of indigenous children. By continuing our efforts in these areas, we offer these young people a future filled with opportunities and contribute to building a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

Our Boarding School for Indigenous High School Students in Sibiti



EDUCATION FOR ALL

IX-

Conclusion

"IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER."





Conclusion

This year, we can proudly acknowledge the progress made in our commitment to the education and well-being of indigenous children. Thanks to the valuable collaboration of our partners, the communities, and all those who believe in our mission, we have been able to achieve numerous milestones despite the challenges faced.

However, there is still much to be done to ensure that every indigenous child has the same educational and developmental opportunities as any other child.

Our upcoming projects, such as the rehabilitation of the People's House, sewing training for women, scholarship searches for students, and youth engagement, are all initiatives aimed at strengthening our efforts and opening new perspectives for the future.

We are convinced that with continuous mobilization and the unwavering support of our partners, these projects will have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of our beneficiaries. Together, we can overcome challenges and build a future where the education and well-being of indigenous children are at the heart of our priorities.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our actions and supported our organization. In 2025, we will continue to work for a better future, with the hope that the collective efforts we are putting forth today will lead to real change for future generations.

We remain committed to continuing this wonderful journey and making each project a driving force for positive transformation in indigenous communities.

Thank you for your constant support.



Indigenous Children School Education Support Program



Investing in a generation that will make a difference in their community.

Our mission is to provide indigenous children with the resources they need to become the true drivers of change within their communities.

How to help?

- Make a donation ✓
- Donate clothes ✓
- Donate non-perishable food items ✓
- Tell others about us ✓
- Listen to their needs ✓

We support them from their first day of primary school until their integration into the professional world.