



Let us help Benin's slave children.

Beneficiaries:	60 boys and girls victims of traffickers
Area:	Cotonou (capital city of Benin), Toffo and surrounding villages (60 km from Cotonou)
Annual budget:	€ 30.000 (19.680 000 FCFA)
Project Manager:	Sister Maria Antonietta Marchese

Introduction.

Children trafficking is a common phenomenon in Western Africa, especially in Benin.

Farming villages are predominantly involved in this phenomenon due to poverty and lack of education and health care. Poverty drives many families to send one or more of their children to friends or family somewhere else. This practice is supposed to give the children a better chance of getting an education but the children are often forced into slave workers and a web of bondage that includes prostitution and human organs trafficking.

The boys and girls remaining in the villages are in no way protected. Poverty leads to disintegration of the social fabric and the weakest are always the fated victims of the traffickers.

In Toffo, the Salesian Nuns, in collaboration with the local priest, are helping some of the families (mainly widows willing to lend a hand) that have adopted some of these orphans and have in fact saved their lives out of generosity. The main objective of everyone involved is to allow these children to grow up as part of a family instead than in a state-run facility.

Target

1. To provide economic support for at least 60 boys and girls.
2. To provide psychological support to the foster mothers.

Actions

1. Economic support aims to make certain children develop in a well-adjusted way, and it covers expenses for:
 - Education (fees, clothing, school equipment)
 - Vocational training for the older ones (fees, clothing, technical equipment)
 - Basic Health Care (vaccines, visits, prescriptions)
 - Food and clothing (for everyday use)
 - Recreational activities (sports and educational games)



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Economic support is vital for the foster families as they cannot in any way afford to provide for health care, education or training. The idea is to help these children to become responsible, healthy, helpful adults, who will play a part in the social development of their community.

2. Psychological and social support, requires:

- Coordination and supervision by an expert coordinator.
- Psycho-social support for children and adults.
- Promotion of children's rights to the village communities.

Support and supervision are critical. An Italian coordinator will assist the families and distribute aid according to need. She will also provide counselling services. A local professional educator will take care of the children's support, psychological and otherwise. A promoter will be involved in the villages awareness programme.

Annual Costs.

Zonta Club Moncalieri wishes to help Toffo women – present and future – save boys and girls from slavery and neglect. The club intends to organize specific services in collaboration with other clubs and associations. Our club trusts in the generosity of private donations. We propose the sponsorship formula, which allows for personal involvement both with the children and the foster parents.

Boys and Girls	Annual cost per person	Total annual cost
60	€ 500	€ 30.000

The coordinator will take care of the accounting. Every donor will receive a balance sheet and an actions report.

