

# WORLD EDUCATION IN

# BENIN



World Education has worked to strengthen the education sector in Benin since 1994.

We work closely with grassroots organizations and stakeholders to deliver results that positively impact people's lives while building the capacity of our partners to promote sustainable local solutions.

With a focus on parental participation in the public education system and improved school governance, we strive to promote quality instruction and greater school access for students in Benin, especially girls and children who have been left out of the education system.



**STRONG LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS, SUSTAINABILITY, GENDER EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ARE CORE TENANTS OF OUR WORK.**



WORLD EDUCATION

World Education has  
helped create

**630**

### **MOTHERS' ASSOCIATIONS**

which have been recognized as  
a national model for women's  
empowerment and participation  
in school governance.



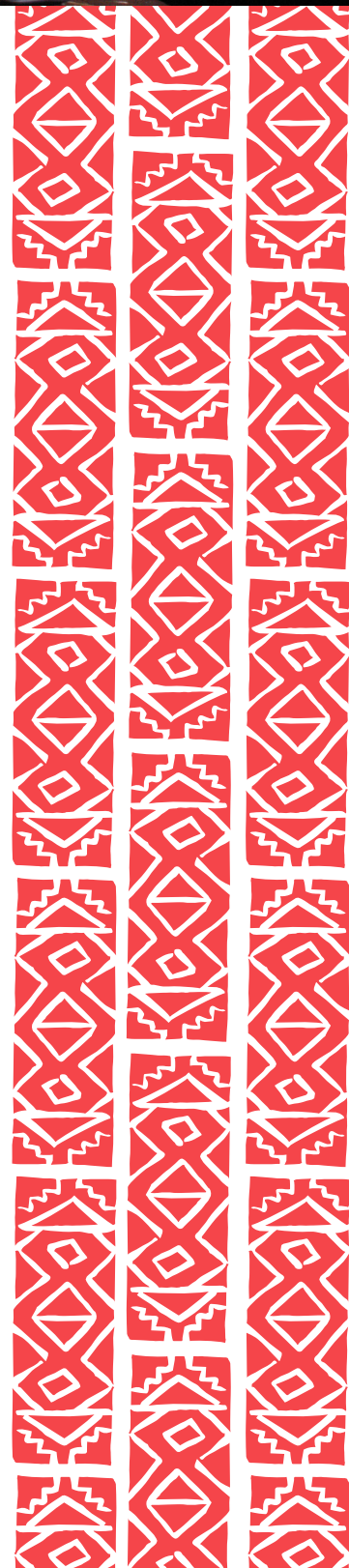
## **STRENGTHENING SCHOOL SYSTEMS THROUGH MOTHERS' ASSOCIATIONS**

**World Education has been instrumental in launching the wave of mothers' associations (AMEs) in Benin. Mothers' associations play a key role in promoting girls' education. Today, there are over 630 AMEs, which have been formally integrated within parent-teacher associations.**

Since 1994, we have worked with mothers and parents' associations to combat child trafficking, improve the legal environment for civic participation in education, maintain and manage primary schools, build and operate school canteens, increase access to education for children with disabilities and improve gender equity in schools.

30% of school teachers hired by the community are brought in using mothers' and parents' association resources.

A key strategy in improving the access to and quality of education in very diverse settings has been to involve communities to the maximum extent possible. This work is centered on participatory creation, strengthening, and further training of community-based AMEs, which have been cited by USAID as a best practice for increasing mothers' involvement in their children's schooling and empowering women to be champions of education.





We aim to reach over

**17,00**

**STUDENTS**

and

**144**

schools in Northern Benin.



## EARLY GRADE READING

World Education implements the early grade reading components on the United States Department of Agriculture-funded McGovern Dole Food for Education (FFE) programs, which aim to improve literacy of school-age children in 144 targeted schools in Northern Benin. World Education is a subcontractor to Catholic Relief Services on the Project.

We work with the Ministry of Primary and Preschool Education to train grade 1 and 2 teachers to improve reading instruction that complements existing government curricula; and train Kindergarten teachers in integrating socio-emotional learning (SEL) and play-based pedagogical approaches into the classroom. This project builds on our successful work with Beninese mothers' associations to equip them

with tools to promote early grade reading and other quality education initiatives in their homes and communities.

We also build the capacity of local government partners to administer early grade reading assessment and use the results to inform education policies and decisions.



## SHAPING NATIONAL CURRICULUM

The Government of Benin has collaborated with World Education to introduce, for the first time, a structured literacy approach, based on phonics, into the national curriculum in the 2021-2022 school year.

In 2019, World Education's early grade reading assessment (EGRA) and teacher analysis revealed low-student performance in reading—especially in decoding words—and low teacher capacity in

pedagogical skills. In response to these findings, World Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMPP) through the National Institute of Training and Research in Education (INFRE) and local school districts, developed decodable books for grade 2 students.

While reforming the primary education curriculum in 2020, the Government of Benin adopted the

use of decodable readers, which had proven to be successful since 2019, at the national level. In September 2021, they officially announced that these materials would be used for the 2021-2022 school year. The new phonics-based approach introduced by World Education will now be part of a sustainable system to foster early grade reading success for years to come.



## SUSTAINABILITY

Prior to World Education's work, early grade reading (EGRA) and early grade math (EGMA) assessments had never before been used in Benin to evaluate learning outcomes. As a result of our EGRA/EMGA implementation and at the request of INFRE, Benin's national teacher training institute, we provided capacity building in monitoring and evaluation to the newly developed Service d'Evaluation des Apprentissages (Education Assessment Unit). We trained the newly staffed unit in developing and implementing EGRA and EGMA using the mobile-based assessment tool, Tangerine, in 36 schools where the government is piloting a new early grade literacy and early grade math curriculum for Grade 1 students with support from the World Bank. We are proud to play a role in the institutional integration of EGRA/EGMA tools within the education sector of Benin. This achievement will allow the Government of Benin to routinely assess student skills to monitor learning outcomes and further improve the quality of instruction.

### PARTNERING TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

World Education integrates a gender perspective into every aspect of its projects and partnerships with the aim of promoting gender equity for all ages. Teacher trainings, instructional practices, and pedagogical materials are also developed in a manner to ensure equity and inclusion of all learners. At the core of all of our work is the belief that sustainability is the product of effective local partnerships. To this end, we work hand-in-hand with local communities and government actors to strengthen local capacities and promote long-term sustainability.

