



A world where every child
has access to a classroom



2023 Impact Report

MISSION

Unleash the power of education for African children by partnering with local communities to construct classrooms.

Enabling every interested community to meet the classroom needs of their children is our goal. Through our international coalition of sponsors, local mentors, coalition partners, and community, Coafrica facilitates the construction of needed classrooms.



In 2015, UNESCO was entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Coafrica is contributing to UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) : Quality Education. The number one target under SDG4 addresses the need for adequate infrastructure - meaning one of the most impactful ways to influence education is classroom construction.

UNESCO and Sustainable Development Goals



Heads of State and Government, senior UN officials and representatives of civil society gather in September 2015, as part of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly and have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These objectives form a program of sustainable, universal and ambitious development, a program of the people, by the people and for the people, conceived with the active participation of UNESCO.

We believe in the power of education

One of the biggest contributors to ending poverty is ensuring children have an education. Education opens doors to the future that would otherwise be tightly locked.

Children who are not in school
are at greater risk of:

- Exploitation
- Early marriage
- Continued poverty
- Child labor
- Human trafficking

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Executive Director Message



2023 has been such a wonderful year of learning, growth, expansion, and impact. We completed 11 projects for a total of 47 classrooms, partnered with 3 new coalition partners and opened a new country - Ghana.

I have developed a deep gratitude for the people behind our coalition partners: Victor Ukorebi and his entire team at BASIA including Patrick Ennuson (Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana); Goodwell Banda and Tresher Mukwavi and Build A Classroom, Ltd (Malawi); Aggie Chiku Kazimoto and Mathias Zimba (Zambia); and Thamsanqa Chesa (Zimbabwe).

Coafrica would not be able to confidently construct these classrooms without these talented, capable and selfless volunteers. Their passion for the transformative power of education matches our own.

Our African communities, whom we also consider as coalition partners, have shown up en masse for community meetings, clearing land, digging foundations, unloading trucks, maintaining the classrooms, and more. Their excitement for educational opportunities for their children is touching and inspirational.

Finally, I want to thank our donors. Without you, we simply would not be able to fulfill our vision: a world where every child has access to a classroom.

Together, we are changing lives: one village, one classroom, one child at a time.

Sincerely,

Marci Romney

Board of Directors



Stan Wilson
Founder



Vimbai Tembo
Board Member



Heather Cruz
Board Member



Marci Romney
Director



Matthew Romney
Chairman of the Board



Isaac Wilson
Treasurer



Laura Eyi
Board Member



Wil Eyi
Board Member

Our Volunteer Coordinators



VICTOR UKOREBI - NIGERIA, BENIN, TOGO & GHANA

Victor is the President and Chief Executive Officer of one of our favorite coalition partners, Build-a-School Initiative in Africa (BASIA). Coafrica has been partnered with BASIA from the start; together we have constructed a total of 23 projects in Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria. Victor and his team have made it possible for us to expand into all four countries in West Africa.

In 2023 Victor relocated back to Nigeria. Having him on the ground has allowed him to revamp his team by training them on project implementation and data collection. This has led to more accurate data for evaluation and an increase in community contribution.

Under his leadership, BASIA has partnered with many NGOs to alleviate challenges facing the school system in Africa including Advanced Education in Africa Incorporation, many student alumni groups, government involvement, LDS Charities, and Coafrica. He brings his expertise in construction and facilities management as well as his passion for increased educational access for all African children to our Advisory Board and our projects.

AGGIE CHIKU KAZIMOTO CHIZOKA - ZAMBIA

Aggie oversaw our first Zambian project: Magazine Primary School located in Chipata. She built a strong relationship with the school and community members which made the project a great success and one that continues in its impact. Enrollment at Magazine Primary School has gone up 37% since 2021 from 778 to 1067 students and the teaching staff as doubled!

Aggie recently joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Philanthropies as the Humanitarian Programs Specialist for Zambia and Malawi. We look forward to continuing to work with her as a coalition partner in providing better infrastructure for rural schools in both Zambia and Malawi



GOODWELL BANDA - MALAWI

Goodwell and Build a Classroom, Ltd have been our Malawi project coordinators since the year 2020 and has overseen the completion of 10 successful projects thus far.

Goodwell knows the extraordinary hurdles to education in Malawi. He grew up in abject poverty, wearing his first pair of shoes at age eighteen. Developing a deep passion for education, Goodwell pursued university studies and eventually received Master's degrees in both Education and Project Management. He continues today working on his PhD in Transformative and Community Development from Mzuzu University.

His experience, education, and enormous heart are crucial to forming our strategy and policies in Malawi. In 2023 Goodwell partnered with Tresher a well experienced business man to strengthen his efforts in coordinating our projects In Malawi.



New Volunteer Coordinators



TRESHER MUKWAVI - MALAWI

In 2023, Tresher joined the Build a Classroom Ltd team in Malawi and works closely with Goodwell Banda. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Biblical Studies and a minor in Mass Communications. He worked in the education sector for four years before establishing a car rental business he has been running for the past 16 years.

Tresher's education in mass communication provides a great perspective on communicating and connecting with others about education. His entrepreneurship and business skills are also a huge asset in project management alongside his Project Implementation partner Goodwell. Tresher has worked with Goodwell to oversee the projects at the following primary schools: Bwevu, Mtsindo, Kabuthu, and Malembo.



THAMSANQA CHESA - ZIMBABWE

"Chesa" has experience as a land surveyor, project coordinator, running an NGO (a behavioral change program against HIV spreading behaviors), carpentry and as a Facilities Manager for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Zimbabwe. There he was subsequently promoted to Construction Project Manager for 11 years before recently embarking on his own business as a construction and maintenance company.

With all his experience and a degree in civil and structural engineering from the Engineering Institute of Technology (EIT) of Australia, Chesa is the perfect person to oversee our first project in Zimbabwe. His extensive education and experience will ensure our Zimbabwean classroom construction be as affordable, durable, community driven as possible. Chesa has already started laying the groundwork for our initial project in Zimbabwe : Igusi Primary School located in Matabeleland North Zimbabwe.



MATHIAS ZIMBA - ZAMBIA

Mathias is a Social Development practitioner with 26 years of practical experience in Project and Programme Development and Delivery. Currently, he is working with Mary's Meals Zambia as Head of Programmes for Zambia. Mary's Meals is an NGO which offers nutrient enriched porridge in some of the world's poorest communities. Not only does this help with physical and mental development, but it drastically impacts attendance in these communities.

Mathias is also a part-time Executive Director for the Rising Fountains Development Programme in Zambia. Mathias will oversee the construction of our first project with him at Inkhuziyeni Primary School located in Chipata, Zambia. His long-term experience in humanitarian work will be an asset to our projects and will help us expand to more areas within Zambia.



PATRICK ENNUSON - GHANA

Patrick volunteers his time with Build A School in Africa initiative (BASIA) and Victor Ukorebi working on increasing access to education in Africa.

He holds a diploma in Public Administration, a bachelor's degree in Business Management Administration, a Diploma in Occupational Health, Safety, and Environmental Management, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Science degree in Project Management.

Patrick shares so much passion for education. His experience and qualifications have been a great resource in ensuring the success of our initial project in Ghana - Bakpa Agortakpo. This resulted in the largest crowd of community volunteers we have ever seen in any of our West Africa projects.



Increasing Community Involvement

Empowering African communities to address the barriers to education in their own schools by partnering with us in classroom construction is forefront in all we do at Coafrica.

We want parents, students, teachers, administration, and village chiefs to be at the forefront of every aspect of the project from its inception including negotiating with potential coalition partners for additional funding and materials.

2021- 2022 Community-Led Involvement

- Labor
- Sand
- Water
- Security of Materials
- Desks and Textbooks
- Toilets

2023 Community-Led Involvement includes all of the above AND

- Fabricating windows and doors
- Molding bricks
- Financial Contribution
- Cement
- Student Alumni Groups
- Government Financial Contribution

Coafrica School Locations

New locations established in 2023:

Ghana

Our first project in Ghana, Bakpa Agortakpo Primary School located in the Central Tongu District, was a great success - particularly with community involvement. Hundreds of community members came out to clear the land and dig the foundation. The project already has a 15% increase in enrollment only 6 months after project completion! The school is Bakpa Agortakpo located in the rural district of Ghana.



Zimbabwe

We are delighted to announce our very first project in Zimbabwe!

Preparations for ground breaking are underway at Igusi Primary School located in Matabeleland North Province of Zimbabwe.



Benin

Completed in 2021:

CEG Soyo

Adjadji Cossoe 1

Adjadji Cossoe 2

Completed in 2022:

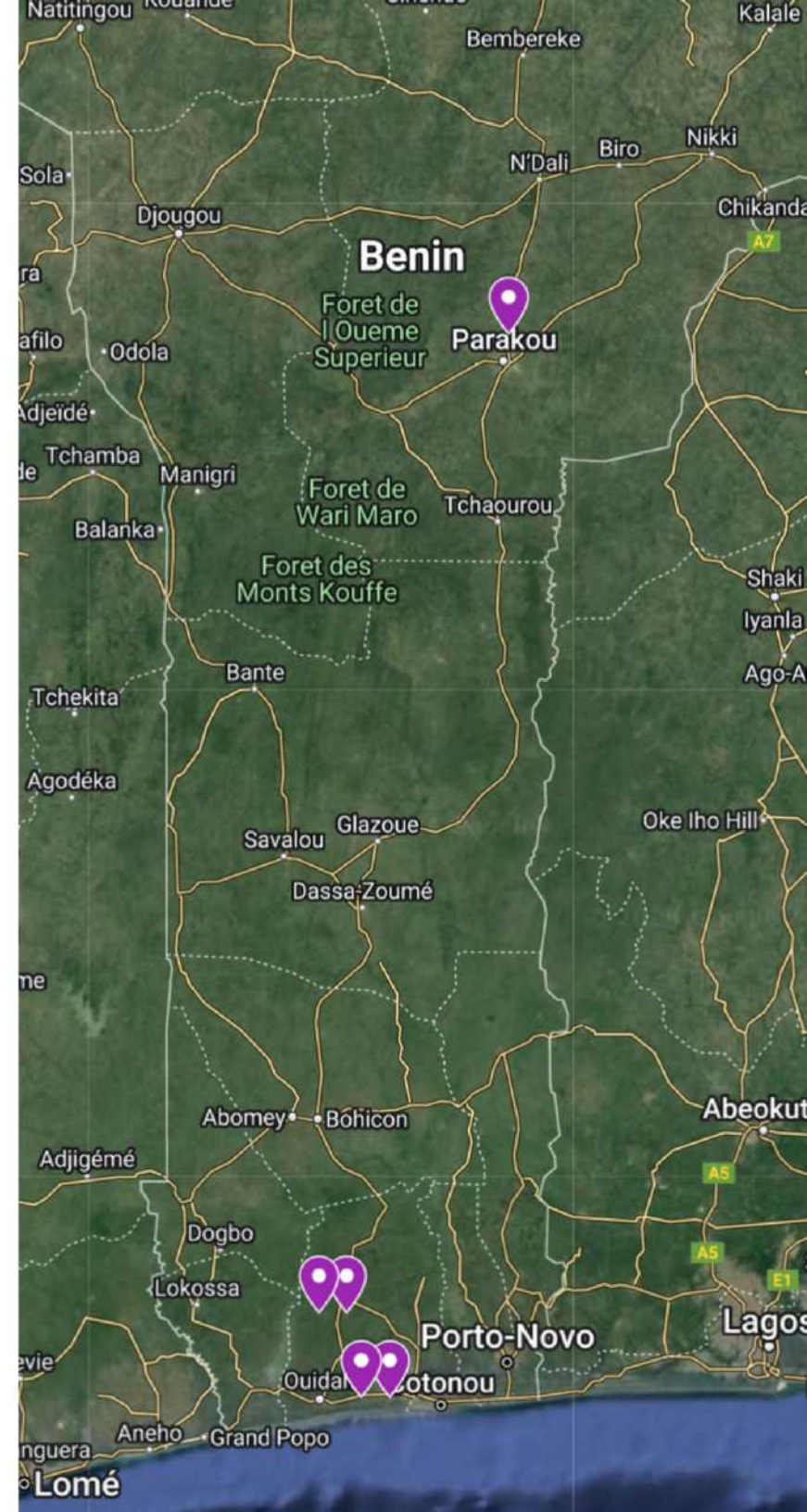
Le Meridien

Pahou Ahozon

Completed in 2023:

Kpassa- Gambou

CEG Pahou Ouidah



Malawi

Completed in 2021:

Kataya

Bondo 1

Bondo 2

Completed in 2022:

Chilima 1

Chilima 2

Chimkoka

Sendwe

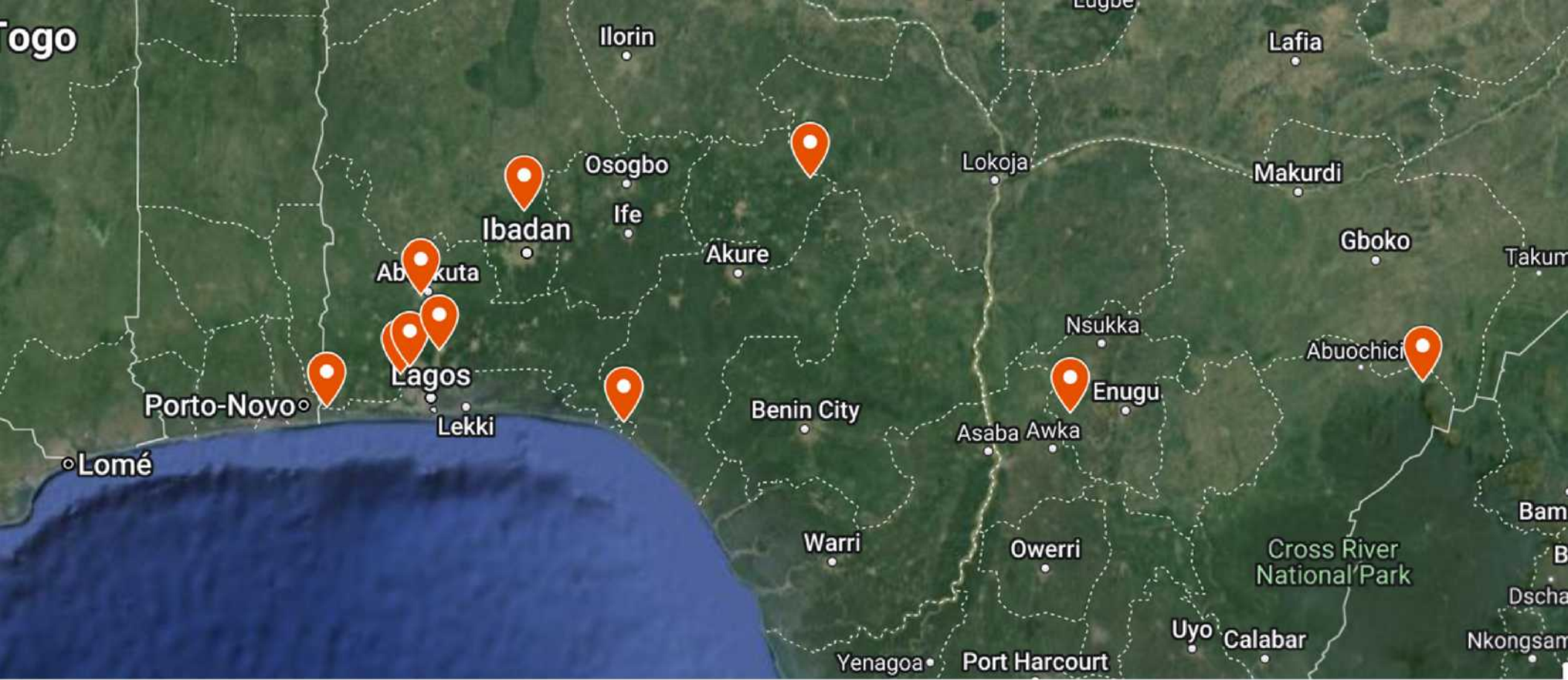
Completed in 2023:

Bwevu

Kabuthu

Malembo





Nigeria

Completed in 2021:
St Peters Iyesi Ota

Completed in 2022:
Ketere
EAC 2
Enugu
Obafemi

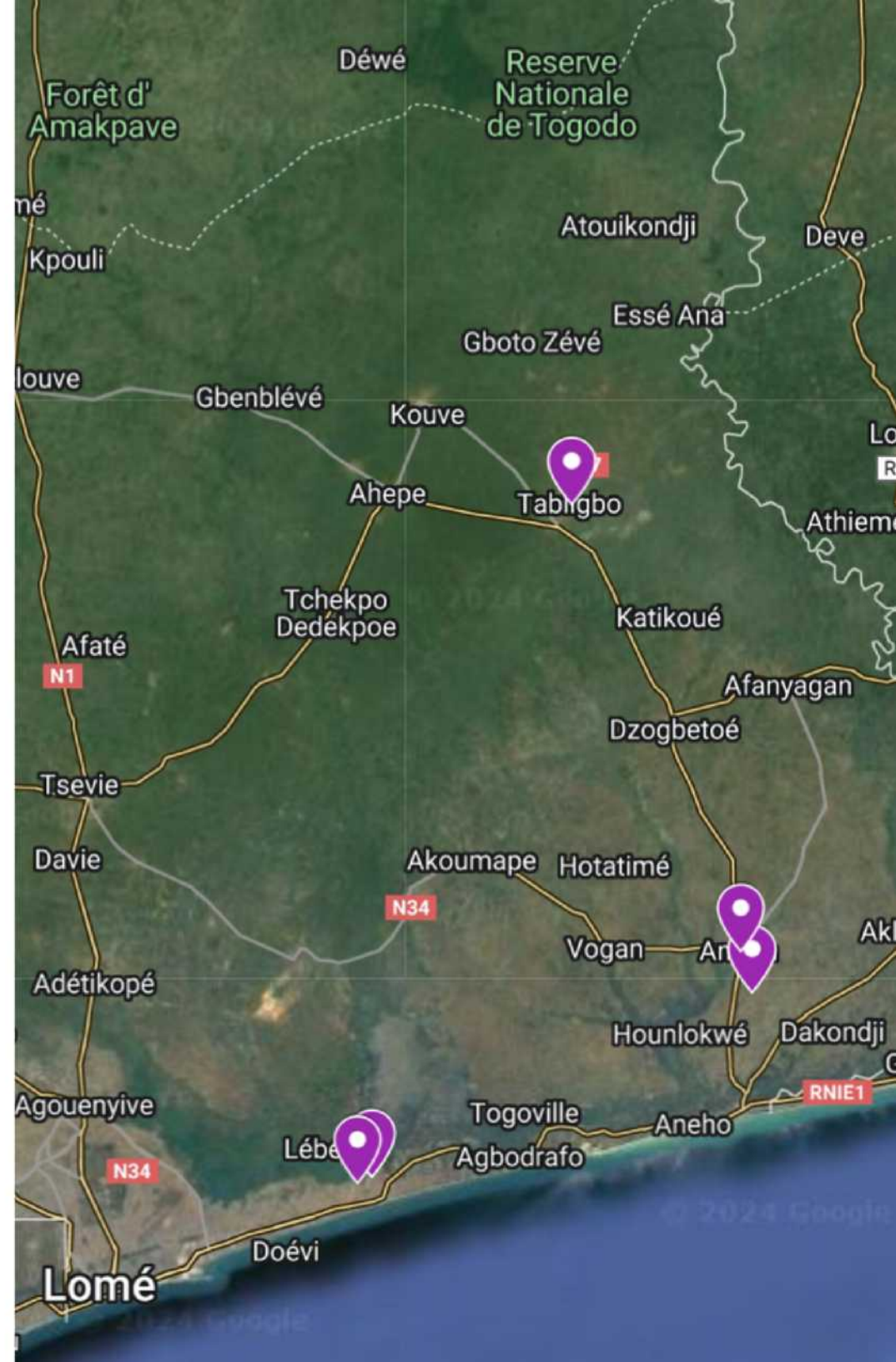
Completed in 2023:
Igboedu
Ketting
Igiri
St Lukes
St Stephens

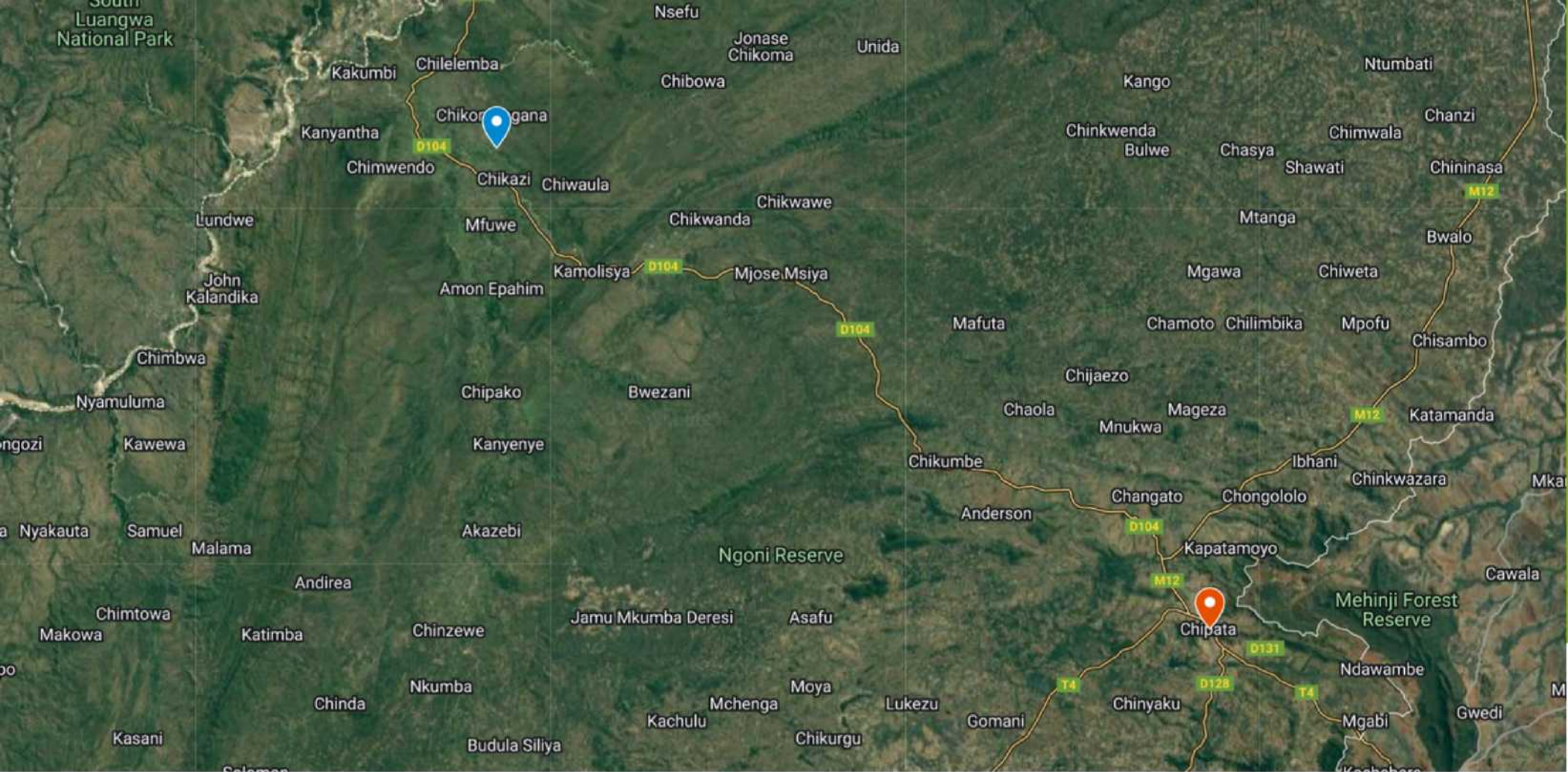
Togo

Completed in 2021:
CEG Kpogan Lambau
CEG Fiata

Completed in 2022:
EPP de Pedakondji
CEG Melly-Dome

Completed in 2023:
Tabligbo





Zambia

Completed in 2021:
Magazine

Planned for 2024:
Nkhuzyeni



Metrics

In 2023 we changed our data and impact metrics strategy from relying on secondary sources of information to gathering our primary data through independent data collectors based in the countries where the projects are located. This change in data collection method has allowed for more accurate and reliable data.

Primary data sources include reviewing school records such as class attendance registers, examination records, and government records. Face-to-face interviews with the students, teachers, and head teachers to complete qualitative and quantitative questionnaires complement our quantitative data with qualitative stories.

A group of diverse African students in school uniforms, smiling and posing for a photo. The background features a decorative white pattern of overlapping circles.

53

Additional teachers
employed

3,193

Newly enrolled
students

7

Countries

140

Coafrica classrooms
completed

36

Coafrica building
projects completed

4

Coafrica projects
in progress



Success Stories

Kabuthu Primary School - Malawi



44% Increase in Enrollment



20% Increase in Teachers



63 children that were out of school now enrolled and attending school.



100 desks provided by LDS charities.



The new block at this school was officially opened by the first lady of the Republic of Malawi Madame Monica Chakwera on the 27th of May 2023. She was happy with the quality and durability of the structure.



Ketere Primary School - Nigeria



57% Increase in Enrollment



33% Increase in the number of teachers.



60 children that were out of school enrolled in the past year.



Ketere Primary School is located in a rural area of Nigeria. Founded in 1954, this school currently serves more than 400 children.

Before construction began, the walls of the school were crumbling and there was severe damage to the roof. In addition to replacing the current classroom block, the government in Nigeria has partnered with BASIA and Coafrica teams to renovate another existing building to make a total of 7 additional classrooms.



Esther Sobande- Nigeria

I am 12 years old and in Grade 6. I have four brothers and two sisters.

Before our new classrooms, my class was combined with another class in one room. It was choking hot and not ventilated.

Now we have more learning space and I'm very glad. My parents take anything relating to my schooling with much more seriousness.

When I grow up I want to be a lawyer so I can help people who are in need.

Blessig Udeh- Nigeria

My name is Blessing and I am 10 years old living in Enugu Nigeria. I am one of five children, but the only child in my family that gets to go to school. I am in grade 4 and love to learn and make friends.

When I grow up, I want to own my own business and maybe travel to London. I want to see the world!

Going to school makes me happy because I can learn and some day be successful. I am so glad that I get to learn in a real classroom now instead of outside under the trees!





Jamison Magombo - Malawi

I am 15 years old and in 7th grade. My parents are subsistence farmers. I go to school so that I can be a teacher some day and help others learn what subjects they like. Then I can also help my parents and sisters.

I'm happy now knowing that I am going to sit and learn in a good classroom and that we won't get wet from the rains.

I hope to someday visit America.

Tabligbo, Togo



BEFORE

AFTER



Kpassa- Gambou, Benin



BEFORE

AFTER



Bwevu, Malawi



BEFORE

AFTER



Sustainability and Exit Strategy

Coafrika partners with the following stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of our projects in the communities where we work:

- Parents
- Village Chiefs
- Ministry of Education and Local Government
- Head Teacher, Teachers, and Administration
- Coalition Partners
- Parents
- Contractor
- Project Coordinator

We empower the community by training community members in the process of constructing the classrooms and helping them to establish and strengthen groups such as the maintenance committee, parent-teacher association, and alumni associations to help with future needs for the school.

All the activities involved in the project are planned and implemented by local community members so that our project consists primarily of Africans helping Africans.

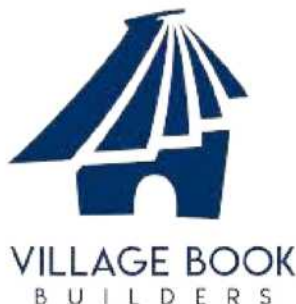
A lot of preparation is conducted before a project starts to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities and expectations in the project to ensure a smooth transition.

Partnerships

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Edward Everett Hale

- LDS Charities
- Build A School Initiative in Africa (BASIA)
- Village Book Builders
- Build A Classroom, Ltd Malawi
- Rising Fountains Development Program
- Mary's Meals
- OBUDU Student Alumni Association





Thank you!