



UNITED STATES  
AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION

# Developing and Expanding Community Enterprises

Creating Pathways to Prosperity for Underserved Communities in Africa

## Benin



The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) is an independent U.S. government agency established by Congress to invest in African grassroots organizations, entrepreneurs, and SMEs. USADF's investments promote local economic development by increasing incomes, revenues, and jobs. Utilizing a community-led development approach, USADF provides seed capital and local project management assistance to African-owned and -led enterprises addressing some of Africa's biggest challenges around food insecurity, insufficient energy access, and unemployment—particularly among women and youth. Over the last five years (2016–2020), throughout Africa's Horn, Sahel, and Great Lakes regions, USADF has invested more than US\$117 million dollars directly into over 1,000 African-owned and -operated entities and impacted over four million lives.



Investing in  
Communities



Growing  
Enterprises



Increasing  
Incomes



Building  
Capacity

Last  
**10 Years\***  
of Impact

**120** / **355K**  
Enterprises / People Impacted

**US\$16.4**  
Million

\*FY 2011 to March 30, 2021

### INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

**Challenge:** The women of Association Karite Benin (AKB) were unable to produce quality shea almonds, thereby impacting the Association's sales and revenue.

**Action:** USADF invested US\$227K in AKB to construct 15 warehouses with the capacity to store 1,500 tons of shea almonds and provide managerial, marketing, and commercialization capacity building training to AKB management.

**Results:** With USADF's investment, AKB improved the quality of its shea almonds and retail prices threefold, increased commercialized volume of shea almonds to 1,200 tons and storage capacity to 1,500 tons, and enabled 7,900 women to improve their incomes.

### GROWING ENTERPRISES

**Challenge:** Union Régionale des Coopératives de Producteurs d'Anacarde du ZOU-COLLINES (URCPAZC) had limited revenue from its cashew production due to a lack of storage infrastructure and high financing cost.

**Action:** USADF invested US\$228K in URCPAZC to provide equipment capital, local project management, infrastructure support, and business advisory assistance to improve operations.

**Results:** With USADF's investment, URCPAZC increased raw nut yields from 200 kg to 350 kg. The lives of cooperative members have also improved significantly, with many buying new reliable transport, solar panels for their homes, and paying their children's school fees.

### INCREASING INCOMES

**Challenge:** Before USADF's investment, the maize farmers from Union des Coopératives des Producteurs de Maïs de Nikki were unable to access profitable markets in Nigeria due to the low quality of their maize.

**Action:** USADF invested US\$236K in the Cooperative to improve the quality and quantity of maize production and enhance its ability to access new markets.

**Results:** With USADF's investment, the Cooperative increased the volume of maize marketed to 500 tons and market price by 60 percent. The Cooperative was able to obtain customary detention certificates to secure land and improve the ability to get micro-credits.

### BUILDING CAPACITY

**Challenge:** The Union Communale des Coopératives Transformatrices de Manioc de Toviklin (UCCFTM) lacked access to new profitable markets due to limited resources and marketing practices.

**Action:** USADF invested US\$232K in UCCFTM to construct nine modern production workshops, improve transportation capacity, and strengthen management and leadership capacity.

**Results:** With USADF's investment, UCCFTM increased its profit margin from US\$6.59 to US\$19.77 per 100 kg bag, translating to a marked improvement in the lives of members with many buying motorcycles, paying school fees, and starting other businesses.



**USADF.gov**



# USADF Benin Investments Active in 2021\*

\*Active portfolio as of March 31, 2021

USADF invests directly in African community enterprises, providing grant capital and local technical support to early-stage businesses.

## **ABC Grower**

US\$10,000 • 1 year  
• Fertilizer

## **AfriCereal**

US\$83,820 • 2 years  
• Rice

## **Association Karité Bénin (AKB)**

US\$233,478 • 3 years  
• Shea

## **Blue and Green Engineering**

US\$25,000 • 1 year  
• Water

## **Coopérative Communale des Producteurs de Maïs Mihalodo de Djidja (CCPM-DJIDJA)**

US\$245,298 • 3 years  
• Maize

## **Cooperative de Transformation de Manioc en ses dérivés SONAGNON**

US\$233,120 • 3 years  
• Cassava

## **Coopérative des Femmes Transformatrices de Manioc en gari et ses dérivés de Savalou-Est**

US\$233,409 • 3 years  
• Cassava

## **Cooperative des Transformateurs de manioc Gbenondjou (SCOOPS) d'Edou-N'Gbégnonhoué**

US\$246,444 • 3 years  
• Cassava

## **Etablissement PRO SAINS**

US\$148,033 • 3 years  
• Fonio Processing

## **Etablissement ZIKORA**

US\$74,039 • 2 years  
• Shea

## **Les Fruits Tillou SARL**

US\$243,730 • 3 years  
• Pineapple

## **Les Jardins de l'Espoir**

US\$10,000 • 1 year  
• Agribusiness

## **NATURA SARL**

US\$210,749 • 3 years  
• Shea

## **Oasis des Enfants**

US\$82,126 • 2 years  
• Maize

## **Reading Power**

US\$10,000 • 1 year  
• Education Technology

## **Recherche Action et Développement Plus - Bénin (RAD plus Bénin) SARL**

US\$96,449 • 2 years  
• Pineapple

## **Union Communale des Coopératives de Producteurs d'Anacarde de Djougou (UCCPA-Djougou)**

US\$221,552 • 3 years  
• Cashew

## **Union Communale des Coopératives des Producteurs de Maïs de Kérou (UComCVPM)**

US\$241,770 • 3 years  
• Maize

## **Union Communale des Coopératives Transformatrices de Manioc (UCCTM) de Toviklin**

US\$232,245 • 3 years  
• Cassava

## **Union Communale des Producteurs d'Anacarde (UCCPA) de Tchaourou**

US\$227,077 • 3 years  
• Cashew

## **Union Communale des Transformatrices de Manioc en Gari de Ouèssè**

US\$243,500 • 3 years  
• Cassava

## **Union des Coopératives des Producteurs de Maïs de Nikki**

US\$236,357 • 3 years  
• Maize

## **Union des Femmes Transformatrices de Manioc de Savalou (UCCFTM)**

US\$246,786 • 3 years  
• Cassava

## **Union Régionale des Producteurs d'Anacarde COOP-CA de l'Ouémé et du Plateau (URPA/OP)**

US\$243,472 • 3 years  
• Cashew

### **USADF in Benin:**

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Benin@usadf.gov

**USADF.gov**

### **USADF's Local Partner Organization:**

Action pour la Promotion des Initiatives  
Communautaires (Association for the  
Promotion of Community Initiatives)  
[www.apic-ong.org](http://www.apic-ong.org)