

stichting
ROND
OM **BABA**



“The greatest thing you can do for someone is not so much to share your wealth, but to help him to reveal his own.”

Benjamin Disraeli



The Dutch Rondon Baba foundation(around Baba) works in Mali to improve living and working conditions for the extremely poor. All the work in Mali is organised by a Malian man Baba Traore and a Dutch woman Yvonne Gerner. They believe that only work and training in combination with behavioural change can break the vicious circle of poverty. For that purpose they started the “Here Bugu” centre (place of peace in local language) where people live, work, play and are taught together in a holistic way.

The poor people in the environment of Mopti and Sevaré who want to help themselves are the center of attention. As the chief of Dialangou said:

“I ask no money, I ask no food, although we are hungry, but I’m looking for relatives who want to help us get out of this situation.”

The hope of these people for improvement may be realized when they see that we listen to them, understand their needs and plan a program that runs until the work is done.

It starts with them, from the bottom up, not from above. Rondon Baba wants to work at the local level, where they encounter the poor people themselves, where we can live with them, listen to their stories, share their food and be their friends. The poor themselves are the experts who know what they need. We don’t help them by giving them gifts, but instead by creating spaces where changes of behaviour can take place, changes that are needed to break the vicious circle of poverty.

Before the extreme poor can consume anything, they need social capital, which consists of good health, lower infant mortality, disease protection, training in the use of aid, and the possibilities of being together as a community. These are the social and human demands that we need to distinguish from the market that is expressed in dollars. P. Kotler



Sharing of knowledge and collaboration

Amongst the goals of the Foundation are to maximize sharing knowledge and collaborate with kindred spirits, to obtain new knowledge about fighting poverty, to publish about our experience and to build a strong international and local network.

There is cooperation with local authorities in Mopti, the Dutch Embassy, PUM (Netherlands Senior Experts), local N.G.O's and foundations such as Dutch KOZON (cooking with solar energy), Stichting Energy Solutions for Humanity (windmills) and Catalyst (biogas).



The structure of Here Bugu

Here Bugu is a community where life and work is based on respect for the human individual, the social community and in dealing with nature. It is an example of a human society where youngsters can learn a trade and learn to collaborate. Here Bugu is a meeting place where people from the Western World can share and transfer the best achievements of their culture with the Malian youth and where Westerners can learn from the wonderful values of African culture.

The Bella of Dialangou

Random Baba supports since four years a group of about 1000 Bella (former slaves of the Toeareg), 2 miles from Here Bugu. Because they have no birth certificate they have no access to existing assistance programs. Baba and Yvonne became their confidants and they work as mediators between them, the community and official agencies.

If you keep doing the same as you always did, you get the same result. To break the vicious circle of poverty, behavioral change is a condition.

WE NEED

In the future Here Bugu has to start generating income itself through the small enterprises. The earnings will come from windmill production (together with Foundation Energy Solutions for Humanity), biogas, agriculture, cattle and horticulture.

Continuity of Here Bugu

There is a growing group of donors who support with a smaller or larger monthly or yearly contribution for the structural costs of Here Bugu (salaries, food for workers and animals, gasoil for electricity, etc.).

We need more donors for the increasing costs. With any amount from 5 to 25 pound a month you can make the difference for us to increase the group of work forces that can be adopted so the work can continue at full strength.

Expanding and improving projects

There are some projects where no funding is found, but who are very important for further development. For this we are looking for funds to support. Some examples: stables for the animals, interior for the school, transport, buildings, pisciculture, etc.

Generate own income

In Mali, a great lack of major construction materials such as concrete mixers, generators, compressors, welders, truck, tractor, etc. The Foundation looks for opportunities to fill a large container with materials and send it to Here Bugu. With the rental of these materials direct income for Here Bugu is guaranteed. Furthermore it reduces the costs of their own projects.

Purchasing more land

The Foundation is looking for people who want to donate one hectare of land adjoining or buy with usufruct for the Foundation. The Foundation may use the land for further expansion of employment on a fair basis and use the acres for the cultivation of millet, corn, etc. Moreover, it prevents land speculators to buy adjacent acres because they are attracted by the dynamic development of Here Bugu.

For more information contact: yvonne@rondombaba.nl

SUPPORT RONDON BABA

The Rondom Baba Foundation
KvK: 27304691 als ANBI
Triodosbank: 784740593
t.a.v. stg. Rondom Baba, Den Haag

On www.rondombaba.nl you can find a donation form as well as detailed descriptions, photos and film, the actual work report and a link to the blog of Yvonne. (In Dutch, we are working on an English version)

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