

The Boko people live in North Eastern Benin and spread over the border into Nigeria. They are almost entirely subsistence farmers and their average daily income is less than A\$2. Children typically suffer nutritionally and educationally. This project helps the Boko people through farming support, training of women, medical assistance, and financial support for students. The outcome being sought is better crops and nutrition, better job opportunities for women, and students given the opportunity to finish their education.



There are six components of the Fighting Poverty Among the Bocos Project.

**1. Education:** About 50 students are currently being assisted to finish High School. This is difficult as Boko students have to leave their tribal area to complete the last 3 years of school. Some of these students are being assisted to University.



**2. Medical:** There are currently two Nurses being trained with a vision to building two Medical clinics in the area to treat patients and distribute mosquito nets.

**3. Crop Farming:** There are currently 80 crop farmers who are being trained and given micro-loans to assist them in improving their crop yields and variety of crops grown.



**4. Animal Husbandry:** There are a further 80 people participating in animal husbandry classes with micro-loans to assist them in building, maintaining and selling healthy animals.

**5. Women in small business:** 60 women are participating in classes and receiving micro-loans to assist them in establishing small businesses to provide their families with basic income security.



**6. Literacy:** Finally, there is a literacy program which aims to teach a literacy teacher in every Boko village in Benin and neighbouring Nigeria. This is coupled with the printing of about 30 different pamphlets and booklets to assist with developing literacy.



## Sample Itinerary      Fighting Poverty Among the Bocos – Northern Benin



<b>Day 1 &amp; 2</b>	Depart Australia for Cotonou, Benin, via Doha, Qatar. Arrive, go to accommodation.
<b>Days 3 - 4</b>	Spend day in Cotonou acclimatising to new time. Visit nearby beach or market if you're energetic enough. Orientation to the fascinating history of Benin, 'the Slave Coast', and begin to unpack a West African worldview. Accommodation at SIM Cotonou Guesthouse.
<b>Day 5</b>	Travel via Dedras vehicles (the local NGO partnering with SIM) to Segbana in north-east Benin. Accommodation and food purchased along the way.
<b>Day 6 - 8</b>	Time spent in Segbana visiting Boko Poverty Project. Hands-on opportunities to view projects, meet people, spend a day on a farm, experience some of the traditional Boko nightlife. Eat and sleep in a Boko compound built and designed for African visitors (safe and clean but very basic). Experience how this proud tribe of people have lived for hundreds of years. Gain an insight into their culture and the challenges of surviving in the African bush. There is an option for participants to stay in a village context for a night or two. Various other options can be discussed and arranged to suit the group.
<b>Day 9</b>	Travel north to Kandi and then south to Parakou via bitumen road. Stay at SIM Guesthouse in Parakou. Visit market.
<b>Day 10</b>	Travel to Cotonou. Celebration event.
<b>Day 11</b>	Depart Cotonou for Australia.