

OFED

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Founder of OFED



I am proud to present OFED's 2018 annual report, which highlights the extraordinary work of our staff and the remarkable determination of the women of the Republic of Togo to improve their lives, and the lives of their children.

Rural women throughout the developing world face enormous challenges in lifting themselves from poverty and into economically productive work. Illiteracy, inadequate childcare, poor economic conditions and a lack of educational opportunities inhibit even the most determined women from advancing themselves independently.

Our work is based on the specific needs of the women of rural Togo. OFED provides opportunity, tools, support and inspiration to help these women help themselves.

Entrepreneurship contributes to economic growth in developing countries and represents enormous untapped potential. In fiscal year 2018, OFED continued to help women in Togo to develop the skills to generate and sustain entrepreneurial work.

An OFED leadership program supported the ongoing development of rural women's groups and strengthened ties with them. In 2018, we continued to help rural women to collectively organize themselves into cooperatives, promoting their basic education through a literacy project that focuses on numeracy, reading and writing both in Ewe (a local Togolese language) and in French.

Commitment to children's education is also central to our mission. In 2018 we led Early Childhood Development programs in the kindergarten we built in the town of Assiamagble, and offered comprehensive services such as nutrition, health and hygiene. We helped young children improve their reading skills through our project "Promoting a culture of reading for school children". Through this program, children also learn to enjoy reading, opening them up to greater academic success and the opportunity for a more productive life.

Throughout 2018 we relied on the generosity of our donors to produce these and other achievements. Without their support we could not help empower women and their children. We are deeply grateful for the trust they continue to place in OFED.

I look forward to all that we will accomplish in 2019 and in the coming years.

Sophie Lawson-Adigo
Founder & President OFED Togo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adigo". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.



Who We Are

The Organization for Women and Development International (OFED) empowers women to obtain economic freedom by providing the tools and education they need to be successful.

Our Vision: We envision strong rural communities in West Africa, where women are empowered with the skills to take charge of their own economic future and where children are empowered through early and effective education.

Passion: We give women a voice. We believe that the work we do makes a significant difference in the lives of women and their children in rural communities.

Performance: Our expertise, local knowledge, dedication and commitment translate into efficiency in program costs and management.

Integrity: We pride ourselves in offering a holistic program. We take great care of our extended family, treating women and children with dignity and providing a clear and achievable path forward.



Our Strategy

Support and assist rural women to:

- Increase their agricultural productivity.
- Increase their income from agricultural products.
- Access credit.
- Undertake income-generating activities.
- Improve their health, education, and training.

Contribute to the well-being of their children through projects to:

- Promote early childhood education.
- Increase literacy through reading.
- Reduce school drop-out rates in rural areas.
- Ensure children's adequate nutrition through school canteens.

Priority Areas of Activity: Agriculture, health, early childhood development, education, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, and energy and infrastructure.

Approach: OFED's strategy and decisions are based on research and training. We have a participatory approach that respects the views of the women and children we work with and helps develop equity between social groups.

Operational Areas: OFED is currently working in the Republic of Togo, with plans to expand to other West African nations.

Rural Women Entrepreneurship Support: Literacy



OFED'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Support for Rural Women's Entrepreneurship: SCOOPS

OFED implemented a project to support rural women's entrepreneurship in the prefectures of Vo, Ave and Agou, moving women's groups into simplified cooperative societies (SCOOPS) and training them in business management. We helped set up field schools to equip members of the SCOOPS with simple and low-cost techniques aimed at improving agricultural yields, and provided them with national identification cards to facilitate financial transactions.

Support for Rural Women's Entrepreneurship: Literacy

Despite their critical contributions to socioeconomic development in their communities, rural women involved in farming face countless hurdles. Although traditional law has seen some advances and women are no longer systematically excluded from land inheritance and community decision-making, the problem of illiteracy continues to hold women back from full independence in farming.

Literacy is a fundamental right for women. But in the Republic of Togo, women are almost twice as likely to be illiterate as men. According to a 2011 UNESCO

Institute for Statistics (UIS) study, literacy rates for men and women respectively were 74% and 48%. In rural areas, the rates are much lower. According to UNESCO, "newly literate women have a positive ripple effect on all development indicators."

During implementation of the SCOOPS, it became obvious that almost all the women experienced difficulty in managing the financial aspects of their work. Our surveys revealed that 95% of the women were functionally illiterate. The women fully understood the importance of literacy to their ability to be independent and successful.

The Adult Functional Literacy Project was initiated to address those shortcomings and the women's requests for help. It enables them to achieve a basic level of reading, writing and numeracy, giving them the ability to manage their cooperatives and income generating activities.

The project has two components:

- Basic literacy, consolidation and post-literacy, with regular assessments of the women's level of knowledge.
- Follow-up throughout the implementation phase.



BENEFICIARIES

100 women including 65 members of 5 agricultural cooperatives in the prefecture of Agou

Partner

Foundation Maagdenhuis



Kindergarten Education

Children given educational opportunities at an early age will achieve better academic outcomes and greater economic success later in life.

In the Republic of Togo, only 26% of children under 5 are enrolled in any form of early childhood education (UNICEF, 2015). Learning materials, such as children's books, are available in only 1% of households.

Our Early Childhood Development Program aims to address this by promoting the participation of children from vulnerable areas in a preschool program. The program encourages the inclusive education of children while ensuring their intellectual, psychological and physical well-being. It encourages parents' involvement in their children's education.

Six Key Areas of Intervention

The program focuses on six main areas to achieve its goals:

Learning and Teaching: Implementing a better educational curriculum for the benefit of kindergarten children in Assiamagble.

Health and Hygiene: Providing children with adequate care, teaching hygiene practices (such as brushing teeth and washing hands), and distributing hygiene kits (toothbrushes, toothpastes, soaps and sponges).

Nutrition: Improving children's diets.

Security: Enhancing security arrangements to improve children's development.

Social Psychology: Encouraging children to fit into a social group.

Parental Support: Establishing a framework that encourages parents to invest in the program's success. Parents are expected to be actively involved in the life of the kindergarten by participating in activities with their children and collaborating with teachers and staff.



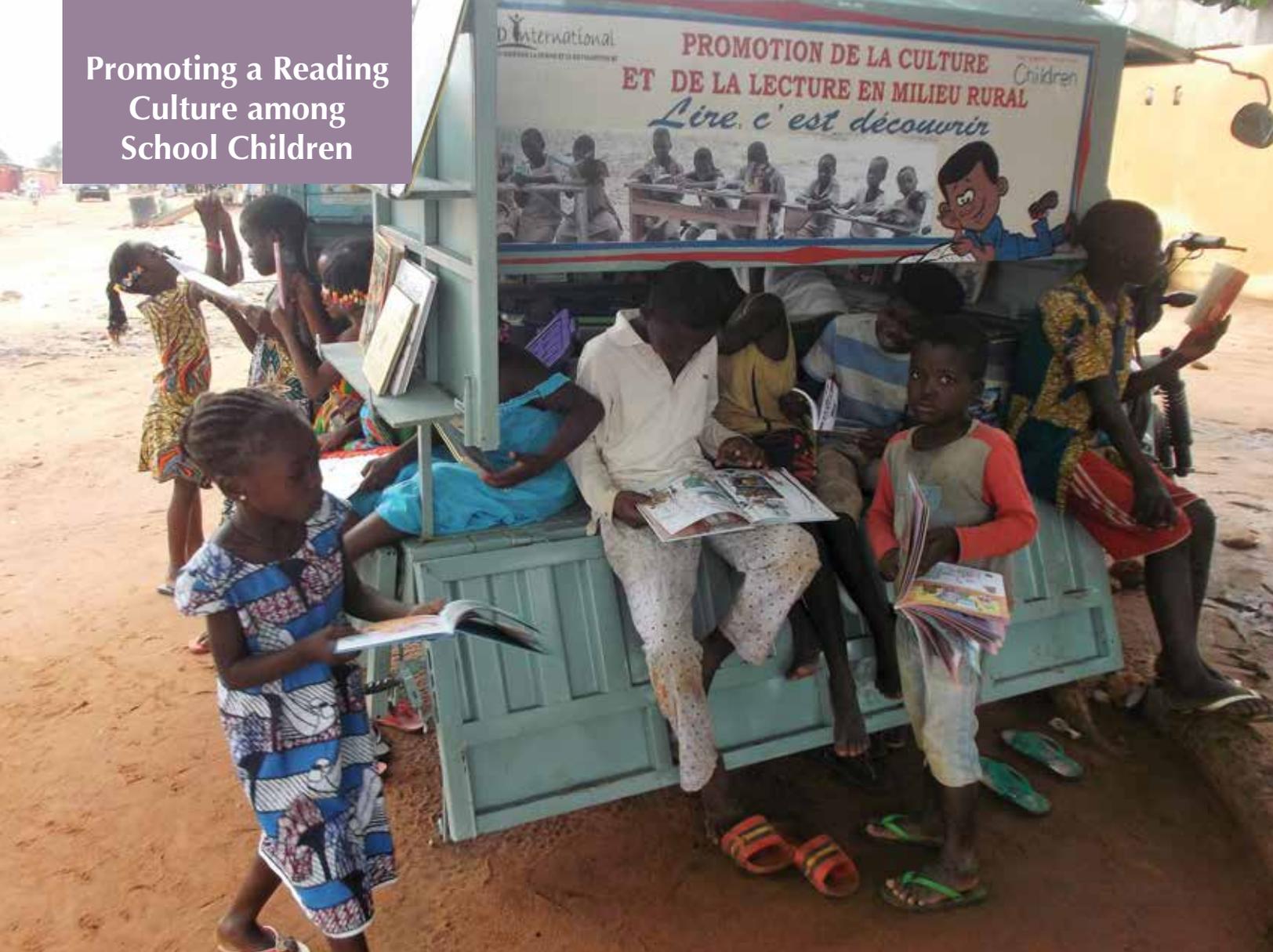
FACTS

- 41 children received their birth certificates
- Door to door visits and surveys of parents were conducted
- A first aid kit was purchased

Partner

Global Fund for Children

Promoting a Reading Culture among School Children



Key Objectives

- Facilitating access to books for children in the township of Aképé and the village of Assiamagblé.
- Encouraging reading to enhance academic achievement and for pleasure, and to improve reading skills.
- Contributing to children's personal and cultural development.
- Promoting education in general.

Mobile Library

OFED deploys a motorcycle tricycle that carries books to primary schools, visiting the schools each Wednesday. Sessions last from 30 minutes to 1 hour and consist of reading, storytelling and Qs & As.

Students have the choice of reading on site or borrowing books. Several categories of books are offered, including education, novels, dictionaries, comics, and poems.

OFED organizes educational and cultural entertainment events around the project, including storytelling sessions with puppet animation, writing workshops, meetings with Togolese authors, and poetry, theater and cultural activities based on the cultural identities of communities.



FACTS

- 223 books were purchased
- 30 reading sessions held in 3 primary schools
- 4 literacy competitions
- 2 literacy clubs set up

Partner

Global Fund for Children



Inauguration of a manual water well with the Ambassador of Germany.

Water Well System Construction

In 2015, nearly one in two Africans did not have access to a dependable source of clean water; only 24% of people in rural areas had uncontaminated water. Access to water and sanitation remains one of the most difficult problems facing the residents of Togo.

In 2012, Togo registered 2,377 deaths from diarrhea due to impure water. Like other rural areas, the township of Kati, with a population of about 15,000, used rainwater and some rare boreholes for drinking water. Women in the Cassava processing cooperative in Kati used water from a small runoff lake to wash the cassava before taking it to market. The nearby high school, with 560 students, had no drinking water. Students went to school with plastic bottles filled with water that was unfit for consumption.

Despite abnormal weather conditions that affected rainwater volume, we set up two manual wells, one near the cassava processing unit and the other at the local high school, ensuring the availability of clean, pure water.

BENEFICIARIES

- 100 women members of the Kati cooperative
- 560 high school students

Partner

Embassy of Germany in the Republic of Togo



THANKS

We could not implement our projects without the contribution of our following partners:

- Foundation R.C. Maagdenhuis
- Global Fund for Children (GFC)
- Embassy of Germany in the Republic of Togo



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OFED 2018 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues			
Contributions & Individual donations	1,456	-	1,456
Grants	-	54,411	54,411
In-kind contributions	6,200		6,200
Investment income	-	-	-
Interest income	-	-	-
Unrealized gain (loss)	-	-	-
Realized gain (loss)	-	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions	54,411	(54,411)	-
Total support and revenue	\$62,067	-	\$62,067
Expenses			
Direct program costs	45,276	-	45,276
General & administrative	13,885	-	13,885
Fundraising	-	-	-
Total expenses	\$59,161	\$0	\$59,161
Change in net assets	2,906	-	2,906
Net assets at the beginning of the year	\$58,975	-	\$58,975
Net assets at the end of the year	\$61,881	-	\$61,881

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSET SUMMARY

	2018	2017
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalent	13,412	9,459
Contributions and grants receivables	48,222	49,328
Total Current Assets	61,634	58,787
Non-Current Assets:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	515	715
Total Assets	\$62,149	\$59,502
Liabilities		
Accrued expenses	268	527
Total Liabilities	\$268	\$527
Net Assets		
Temporarily Restricted	-	-
Unrestricted	61,881	58,975
Total Net Assets	\$61,881	\$58,975
Total liabilities and net assets	\$62,149	\$59,502