



Members of the youth committee for the Sokodé Youth Working for Social Cohesion program planning cultural events as part of community sensitization to promote peace. [Photo by Joseph Garner/CRS]

CRS in Togo

DELIVERING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) began operations in Togo in 1958, implementing humanitarian aid and community health programs. From 1985 until 1992, CRS supported 83 child nutrition centers and 54 public primary school canteens with support from USAID Food for Peace. In the 2000's, CRS expanded its programming to include peacebuilding, support for persons living with HIV, and emergency response.

- Partnership and Capacity Strengthening
- Microfinance

108,109

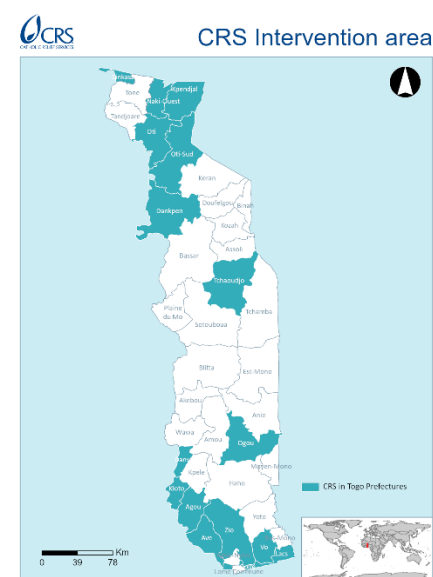
PEOPLE REACHED IN 2020

\$2,994,220

IN RESOURCES INVESTED IN 2020

8 partners

WORKING ACROSS TOGO



Togo

Currently, CRS and its local partners implement programs serving the poor and vulnerable through a holistic approach that includes community-level savings and lending; enhanced nutrition through dietary diversification; hygiene and sanitation promotion; improved literacy outcomes; and fostering of just and peaceful relationships between different identity groups. CRS provides ongoing institutional support to the local church at the diocesan level and works in collaboration with government and local civil society to ensure strong local ownership of activities to promote sustainability.

KEY PROGRAMMING AREAS

- Education
- Justice and Peacebuilding

EDUCATION

In 2019, CRS introduced the *Santé, Transformation et Apprentissage pour une Réussite Scolaire* (STARS) project, a five-year, US \$20 million program funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program. Closely aligned with national education policy and working in coordination with five government ministries, STARS will improve literacy outcomes and provide school feeding to 66,000 students in 138 schools in the Kara and Savanes regions. Partnering with Association d'Appui aux Activités de Santé Communautaires (3ASC) and Appui au Développement et à la Santé Communautaire (ADESCO), STARS will build an education system that enables individuals to benefit from educational opportunities designed to meet their learning needs. STARS will accomplish this by:

- enhancing nutrition in targeted communities.
- improving teacher training and education quality.
- improving student attendance by providing daily school meals and ensuring a safe school environment; and
- strengthening the institutional capacities of school management committees and parent-teacher associations.

In December 2020, to complement the STARS program and respond to the COVID-19 crisis, CRS received funding from the Start Network to provide hygiene and IEC materials to 51 schools as part of reducing risk of COVID-19 transmission in targeted STARS schools.

JUSTICE AND PEACEBUILDING

In December 2020, CRS received funding for a new cross-border social cohesion project called "Naatann Burkina-Togo" (Fraternity Burkina-Togo), targeting the communes of Koulpélego in Burkina Faso and Cinkanssé in Togo. Funded by the PATRIP Foundation, the two-year, €1.5 million, project aims to reduce the risk of violent extremism in the border areas of Togo and Burkina Faso by strengthening social cohesion, improving access to basic infrastructure and providing economic opportunities for nearly 8,160 community members. CRS is partnering with the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (CEJP) of Dapaong Diocese in the implementation of the project in Togo.

This project will leverage results from two previous projects carried out by CRS, respectively "Sokodé Youth on the Move for Social Cohesion" project financed by the US Embassy of the United States in Togo and the "Community Dialogue Platform for Social Cohesion" project funded by the United Nations Development Program.

PARTNERSHIP AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

In line with CRS' strategic vision to mobilize Catholic Church action to combat global poverty, violence, and injustice, CRS is capitalizing on the Togolese Bishops' Conference's engagement to optimize resource management as a key pillar for self-reliance and to better achieve its mission. CRS is partnering with the Togolese Episcopal Conference and the dioceses of Atakpame, Sokodé and Dapaong to

strengthen the capacity of the dioceses to improve the management of their assets (human, financial, natural, and physical) to enable them to better serve the poor and vulnerable.

CRS is also providing technical support to the target dioceses to develop resource mobilization strategies and business plans to access additional resources for the provision of social services. To foster learning, CRS is also supporting exchange visits between Togolese episcopal conference leadership and church leaders from other African countries to share experiences and learn from each other as part of collaborative efforts to increase the Church's impact and influence in combatting poverty and injustice.

MICROFINANCE

With a view to demonstrating our commitment to alleviate human suffering, especially among youth and women, CRS is partnering with the episcopal conference's *Organisation de la Charité pour un Développement Intégral* (OCDI) – Caritas Togo at the national and diocesan level to scale up CRS' Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) methodology to encourage communities in the diocese of Kpalimé to mobilize local resources for savings and income generation.

Launched in December 2018, the Extension SILC (E-SILC) program builds upon the successful completion of the *Communauté d'Épargne et de Crédit Interne* (CECI) project and will establish an additional 194 SILC groups increasing access to savings and credit to more than 3,675 women. E-SILC will also promote CRS' proven Private Service Provider (PSP) approach to sustain SILC activities after the closure of the project by creating sustainable livelihoods for trained and certified PSPs, SILC's facilitators.