



ACTION10

Preventing early pregnancies and early marriages among girls and women in Togo

NGO S.E.VIE-Action10





Content

Vision & Mission of S.E.VIE.....	4
Vision & Mission of Action10	4
Program Mission Statement.....	4
Key Operations.....	5
Previous experiences	6
Needs driven programs, equal partnership, evaluation planning and sustainability	6
Finances	7
Future program.....	8



Vision & Mission of S.E.VIE

The mission of S.E.VIE is to improve the human and institutional environment of the child and to bring the international community to reconsider the child's status in society and to actively engage in promoting the flourishing childhood. The beneficiaries of our projects are mainly orphans and street children, however we are concerned about the fate of all children in need who are together with their families define and implement the programs.

Vision & Mission of Action10

The vision for Action10 is a better world that provides opportunities for all and without extreme poverty. It is an unacceptable situation in the world of today that a large number of people still have to suffer under extremely poor conditions. Action10 claims that extreme poverty can be eradicated, and within a limited period of time, if the correct approach is used. Action10 states that, when it comes to extreme poverty eradication programs, these have to be defined and implemented by the extreme poor themselves. Still, the extremely poor communities depend on partnering up with organizations outside their own boundaries to get access to the products and services that they need to address their challenges, and by doing so their livelihood can be improved.

Program Mission Statement

In 2012, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in Togo conducted a study in the primary schools (age 6 - 12) and in the secondary schools (age 12-15). This study revealed 5,443 cases of pregnancies during the school year 2011-2012, of which 230 pregnancies were recorded in the primary school. This situation is obviously of major concern to the Togolese government, the parents, the teachers, the head-masters and also to the S.E.VIE-Action10 partnership. In September 2015, S.E.VIE was approached by teachers who pleaded for action. Thus, S.E.VIE-Action10 decided to address the situation and initiate a program that would prevent pregnancies among school girls below the age of 15. It was further agreed to raise awareness regarding early pregnancies and early marriage targeting young women aged 15 to 18 and to provide adequate support to teenagers who have become pregnant. The program also addresses the use of adequate contraception to control pregnancies.

The program shall involve all stakeholders and besides the school girls and young women also include the school boys and young men as well as the parents, the teachers and the head-masters. The program shall be in strategic partnership with the Togolese government. The activities will raise awareness and encourage all stakeholders to reflect over and take responsibility for; sexuality and gender as well as women and men rights and responsibilities.

Besides the awareness raising the program shall address the access to adequate toilets and water and to support with providing proper hygiene opportunities, not only for the girls and young women but for all stakeholders involved. The toilets shall offer privacy and also opportunities to remain clean



during the menstruation period. We will also include the access to sanitation pads. The program also addresses the access to safe drinking water, in order to protect our Target partners against hygiene-related diseases. In the rural area of Togo, it is estimated that only (39,7%) 40 %¹ of the population has access to safe drinking water and that only 12 % have access to adequate toilets. It is obvious that these often occurring hygiene-related diseases reduce the education level among girls as well as the participation rate of women in revenue-generating activities. The Government has declared an action plan that shall increase the amount of people having access to safe drinking water to 65 % by 2017, and the S.E.VIE-Action10 program shall become a strategic component of the Government's action plan. The program will also install water committees that will sell water at an affordable price, and collect the funds for repair and maintenance of the well, the pump and the toilets. This project has been created in coordination with the rural population in order to answer to their request for support to address their basic needs in terms of drinking water and sanitization.

Key Operations

This phase of the program will address one rural area in the Maritime part of Togo. The project is planned for a period of 12 months. During the first six months the focus will be on strengthening the leadership skills among youth associations and youth trainers. S.E.VIE-Action10 will play an active role in the implementation of the interventions preparation, including the execution, supervision and monitoring of activities. Toilets and a ground water well will be constructed during the second six months period, when the awareness of the program objectives is clear to all stakeholders. The operations will gradually be taken over by youth associations, and by the end of the year the program will be self-sustained. The project key activities are:

1. Train 30 trainers (men and women) on the dangers of early pregnancies and early marriages as well as strengthen their organisational and managerial skills.
2. Inform and educate 400 teenagers - 300 girls and 100 boys- in the ages 14-18 years on the dangers of early pregnancy and early marriages.
3. Mobilise 65 parents, 25 youth leaders, and 20 authority representatives (community leaders, religious leaders, traditional authorities, district's chiefs, and traditional communicators) to support the prevention of early pregnancies and early marriages.
4. Recruit and train 30 youths to lead future awareness rising sessions in youth organisations.
5. Train twenty women representing the community on the aspect of hygiene.
6. Establish campaigns of trainings, animation and information of all stakeholders in the project area.
7. Construct ten family toilets.
8. Construct a groundwater well and equip it with a manually operated pump (PMH).
9. Install and train a water committee.

¹QUIBB 2001, SCAPE 2013-2017 p.22



Previous experiences

The S.E.VIE-Action10 partnership already has extensive experience from similar activities in Togo. We have raised awareness about children's rights in schools and improved the living conditions in the Maritime region of Togo since 2009. Our program has directly reached 1,000 and indirectly 10,000 persons. We have developed a broad network in Togo and a well-established and positive reputation through our previous activities.

Needs driven programs, equal partnership, evaluation planning and sustainability

The partners build their operations on the Ten Actions (Tact), the Real-time Outcome Planning and Evaluation (ROPE) tool and their presence in Togo. Tact and ROPE are unique tools that have been developed by Action10, implemented in actual practice since 2009 and proven successful (www.action10.org, www.association-sevie.asso-web.com). According to Tact, any activity or program designed to offer opportunities for unprivileged people must be defined and implemented by the people targeted. It is thus acknowledged that it is only the people that are living under certain conditions who can fully understand all the aspects of that life. Our Target partners are often strong, intelligent, capable people who just need a hand to be able to move on. This does by no means reduce the importance of the international collaboration and Action10 contributes by addressing challenges that previously hindered the Target country stakeholders to reach their goals. Tact also ensures equal partnership. Program partners share the responsibilities and benefits equally including design, implementation, evaluation, reporting and benefits. The partnership is also equal in relation to the Target partners. Furthermore, according to Tact each of the programs must have a sustainable economy. The program may need seed funding or investment capital to get started but shall never depend on external funding for its long-term sustainability. A source of income must be identified that will cover the program running costs. The concept is linked to the Tact parameter Needs Driven Program. If the program is actually needs driven then the Target partner will be willing to pay for products and services delivered, if the price is right, thus the program have potential to cover its running costs and will eventually have a sustainable economy. Consequently, a sustainable economy according to Tact does not only ensure the long term impact of a program but also the needs driven aspect. Attention must obviously be paid to the customer's capacity to contribute financially. It shall also be noted that, according to Tact, it is the Government in the Target countries at the macro level and the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and the individuals at the micro level, who have the capacity and knowledge to drive development forward.



Finances

The start-up budget, which this application is seeking funding for, enables the Program partners to initiate a program that have potential of becoming financially sustainable (Table 1 and 2).

In terms of administration costs, the Action10 guidelines for grants state that 7 % of the budget can be allocated for administration at the side of the program partner and maximum 3 % can be allocated for Action10 thus ensuring that no more than 10 % of the total budget is allocated for administration. Action10 S.E.VIE secures that 90% of the budget is allocated for direct program costs.

Table 1. Start-up budget, in \$ and including VAT.

Activity	Amount
Background survey	800
Meetings to coordinate the activities of all stakeholders	800
Train 30 trainers	2 000
Inform and educate 400 teenagers	2 000
Mobilise 65 parents, 25 youth leaders, and 20 authority representatives	2 000
Recruite and train 30 youths	2 000
Train twenty women	2 000
Establish campaigns of trainings, animation and information	2 400
Construct ten family toilets	8 000
Construct one water well	4 000
Install one water committee	1 000
Administration S.E.VIE	2 100
Administration Action10	900
TOTAL	30 000

Table 2. Estimated calculations of the water business. In \$, including VAT.

Estimation of the amount water required	
Size of the population	1 500
Population unserved, 71 %	1 065
Estimated consumption per day and person, liter	20
Total amount required per year, m³	7 775
Estimated production cost per year, \$	
Preventive service and maintenance	11
Repair; dewatering column, chain, bearings, etc.	166
Total Maintenance Costs	177
Estimated income from selling the water per year, \$	
Amount to be sold, m ³	7 775
Prize per m ³ (500 FCFA *)	0,81
Income	6 297
Balance per year, \$	6 120

*Exchange rate according to Oanda, 4 December 2015



The estimated calculations indicate that selling water has potential to not only cover the cost of service and maintenance of the pump and the well, but also generate a significant profit. The profit will be used to sustain the “prevention of early pregnancies” program as well as expand it and the “access to water” program also to other regions. Thus this program will significantly contribute to the MDGs for water. Please note also that the price of the water has been set at a level where each family can afford to procure the amount of water they need.

Future program

The program has potential for being scaled-up by copying this pilot project into other regions. The project can also be strengthened by analysing the water quality and even improving the capacity of performing water analyses in Togo.