



**Deutscher Frauenring
DFR
Germany**



**Swiss Women's Rights
Association
ADF-SVF Suisse**

LA COLOMBE

**Rural Women's
National NGO
Togo**

Emergency Help Fighting the Pandemic A sensibilization campaign and a joint action against Covid-19

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Reducing women's vulnerability to covid19

Introduction

Like other countries in the world, Togo has been facing the Coronavirus pandemic since March 2020. This disease affects the whole country but some regions are more affected than others. However, the socio-economic consequences affect the entire Togolese nation. In fact, the most vulnerable social groups, especially rural women, are even more vulnerable. The Covid 19 pandemic and the decline in economic activities will accentuate the poverty of parents who get angry over a yes or no and pour their anger on the woman or the child.

In this pandemic situation, the efforts of all the actors are focused on the prevention of contamination and the care of the victims.

It is within this framework that ADF-SVF Switzerland, Deutscher Frauenring DFR and private individuals have shown their solidarity towards twenty vulnerable women by a donation of 400 euros with the aim of helping them to resist the crisis by providing the means to block the contamination channels; hand washing device, masks, soap, food kits.

Activities carried out

1- Identification of vulnerable women and girls

The selection criteria for women and girls are: being an unemployed girl, a girl mother, a young woman with two children, a widowed woman, girl-waitresses in bars or restaurants and women food vendors. Some 20 women have been reached in Lomé.

2- Acquisition of hand-washing devices

Two hand washing devices (HWD) manufactured by welders in Lomé were acquired. Each HWD consists of a stand, a large bucket and a small bucket for collecting waste water.

They are installed in front of a fofou gargote and a shed for selling local drinks. At the fofou gargote (porridge of manioc, maize, bananas etc.) people come to eat food including fofou.

Under the drink shed people sit on benches and have the drink served to them.

3- Acquisition of hydro-alcoholic solution

Masks and the hydro-alcoholic solution were produced by the students of the medical school of the University of Lomé. It was a business opportunity for these young people.

4- General training

Hand washing and mask wearing training sessions were conducted at the HWD installation site. Most people put the mask under their chin, over their mouth or nose.

5- Liquid soap preparation training

Learning sessions on how to prepare liquid soap took place at the headquarters of the NGO LA COLOMBE. Three girl mothers who needed urgent support were the beneficiaries. Food kits could be given to them. After analysis it was decided to teach them how to prepare the soap. "Isn't it better to learn how to fish instead of giving fish?"

6- Supply of equipment

Buckets, bowls, plates, funnels, bottles were provided to the girls. Each received 20 euros to buy the raw material and pay other operating expenses.

7- Making of self-adhesive posters

A4 size posters with the AIF logo and LA COLOMBE have been designed. The message conveyed is "STOP Covid19". "Let's respect the barrier measures".

The small self-adhesive posters were placed on the soap and hydroalcoholic solution bottles.

8- Handing-over of the kits

Kits consisting of liquid soap, hydro-alcoholic solution and mask were given to the women.

9- Follow-up of beneficiaries

The women beneficiaries were monitored to verify compliance with the barrier measures and the use of the equipment.

Results

- Two HWDs have been installed
- About 20 people were trained in handwashing techniques.
- 20 women received kits
- 4 girl mothers trained in soap preparation
- 4 girls are able to prepare quality liquid soap
- Daughter mothers are self-employed
- The daughter mothers made a turnover of 70 euros in 10 days.
- The girl mothers increased their income

Conclusion

The assistance provided by ADF-SVF Switzerland, Deutscher Frauenring DFR Germany and private individuals has changed the lives of vulnerable girls and women. They can cope with the consequences of covid-19. LA COLOMBE is very grateful to the benefactors for their gesture of solidarity which has made a significant change in the lives of women.

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