

2019 Annual Report

Global Alliance for Community Empowerment

The Alaffia Foundation





It takes a village.

Students and volunteers at the 2019 Djama kindergarten construction site in Kaboli, Togo.



We are a Community.

Dear Alaffia Foundation Community,

It is my honor to report to you that in the history of the Alaffia Foundation, our community empowerment achievements in 2019 were the greatest ever. Alaffia exists to serve those who are most in need and undoubtedly this is what we did in 2018. While maintaining our fair trade certification is an important part of efforts of our African communities to rise out of poverty, it is the extra investment in these communities that builds the strong social fabric necessary for true poverty alleviation and the attainment of peoples self-proclaimed rights to live in peace and achieve their individual potential.

I hope you can see again that it is you, our retailers, brokers, customers and your individual contributions through retailing Alaffia products, stocking shelves late at night, or buying our products for your families, that are not only saving lives but bringing a sense of peace and worthiness to women in West Africa, who, through no fault of their own, were born to a life that strips them of their basic rights. There is hope that, collectively, we can restore the dignity of our people. While, of course, also supporting our Olympia families with jobs.

Peacefully Yours,

Olowo-n'djo Tchala
President

The Global Alliance for Community Empowerment (GACE), also known as The Alaffia Foundation, is the nonprofit partner of Alaffia, a social enterprise empowering women through fair trade of indigenous African resources.

Olowo-n'djo greets a newborn supported by Alaffia in Sissiak, Togo, September 2019.

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Mission

Our mission is empowering African communities through the advancement of fair trade, education, sustainable living, and gender equality. We do this by building the capacities of women's fair trade organizations in Togo and by executing programs that target exclusion from education, maternal and infant deaths, and harmful deforestation in rural farming and wild recollection zones.

IN THE USA

We are a community of volunteer individuals and organizations on a common mission to alleviate poverty and advance gender equality. We serve as a model for other organizations who wish to empower their communities.

IN WEST AFRICA

We promote a sustainable and ethical standard of living through community programs focusing on education, health, and environment. Our programs have touched hundreds of thousands of lives.

2019 IMPACT

BICYCLES FOR EDUCATION

337 Distributed

MATERNAL CARE

487 Safe Births

REFORESTATION

11,936 Trees planted

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

1 Kindergarten built



Cumulative Impact on Real Lives

Alaffia's empowerment programs are designed to empower communities cumulatively over time. Our approach is to attack the issues of poverty and gender inequality with manageable programs that have significant sustainable community impact.

Small program size means we have complete oversight on use of funds and beneficiary follow-up. With consistent programs over 15 years, we have directly improved the lives of over 250,000 individuals in Togo.

The following stories give a glimpse into some of the thousands of individuals whose lives were impacted by our programs in 2019.



Findibé Kogna **Maternal Health Recipient**

Findibé Kognana gave birth to her previous children at home in Namare, Togo.

Findibé had her children at home because she and her husband did not have the financial means to pay for medical care. She could not contain her joy when she was approved to participate in the Alaffia maternal health program.

Findibé participated in all the educational trainings offered to her by Alaffia staff during her pregnancy, and she says these have been invaluable to her.

Learning about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months has meant her new child is healthy and strong.



Kouméalo Gnantakpa Maternal Health Recipient

Kouméalo gave birth to her first two children at home. After complications, she lost her second baby and her family went into debt to pay medical bills.

When she heard she was accepted for the 2019 Safe Births program in her village of Agoumana, 22 km from the nearest medical clinic, she felt a weight come off her shoulders.

Not only is she grateful for the care she received, but Kouméalo had a lot less stress knowing she would not have to pay for any medicines, fees, or care during her entire pregnancy and childbirth.

Kouméalo hopes this project continues for many years and thanks all those who work to make it continue. She knows how important it is to women like her.



Masalou Palognima Community Health Agent

Masalou has been a community health agent since 2016 in and around her village of Tchamde in central Togo.

Alaffia partners with 60 community health agents across Togo. These dedicated volunteers are part of the National Health System in Togo and provide a vital link to the community. For Alaffia, they recruit women for our Maternal Care programs and participate in trainings and home visits. Alaffia provides each agent a bicycle, a monthly telephone credit and a small monthly stipend.

Previously, Masalou worked with the National Malaria Prevention Program, a nonprofit combating pregnancies in schools, and for the Expanded Program on Vaccination as part of a national support project for maternal and child health and nutrition. This experience cemented her dedication to the women in her community.

Masalou is excited to work with Alaffia to improve the health and well-being of poor pregnant women in her communities.



Azia Tiyadja Bicycles for Education Recipient

Despite having to walk one hour to school every morning, Azia Tiyadja was a passionate and devoted student.

Azia's parents are farmers in the village of Boukatchabe near Bassar. Of her seven siblings, all girls, Azia and her younger sister are the only two that remain in school. Three older sisters are already married, and two left school to find work outside the country.

Azia was chosen to receive a bike because of her dedication to school. She still has to do chores in the morning before leaving for school, but now it only takes her 25 minutes. She continually places in the top 15 of her class.

Azia says, "Thanks to Alaffia, I will go far in my studies to provide for my family and my community, especially girls. I applaud Alaffia and their team for their benefits."



Nakpalé Nakoutipoa Maternal Health Recipient

Nakpalé Nakoutipoa did not know she was carrying triplets when she entered the Safe Births program.

Nakpalé and her husband planned that their seventh child would be their last. However, after joining the Maternal Care program in June last year, they learned Nakpalé was pregnant with triplets. Nakpalé had not slept well since becoming pregnant, because she worried about money for medical care and feared complications as with her previous pregnancies.

After being accepted into Alaffia's program, Nakpalé did not worry any longer. Even when she was referred to the regional hospital in Dapaong to give birth to her triplets, she was able to concentrate on herself and her babies rather than worry how to pay for her care.

After giving birth, Alaffia continued supporting Nakpalé with food, formula to supplement breastmilk, and other supplies. Nakpalé says she has "more than benefited", because beyond the food and the care, she was given a lot of advice she can apply to her family and herself.

RESULTS: Health

The **Maternal Health Program** has a mission to reduce maternal mortality and neonatal mortality in our Togolese communities by providing free prenatal and delivery care to our lowest-income mothers.

We partner with Togo government health clinics and staff. They provide the care, and we reimburse all costs, including services, medications, travel, and referrals. This simple solution saves mothers and our next generation.

SUMMARY TABLE OF BIRTHS BY PREFECTURE, 2019

Prefecture	Tandjoare and Tone	Tchaoudjo	Tchamba	TOTAL
Total Women Participants	250	116	119	485
Miscarriages	1	1	1	3
Normal Births	247	102	109	448
Caesarian Births	2	10	5	17
Referred to Hospital	23	19	14	56
Newborns*	245	105	113	463
Stillbirths	13	7	1	21
Maternal Deaths	0	2	0	2
Left Program	0	1	4	5

*This is live newborns; this year we had 4 sets of twins and 1 set of triplets, a first for the Alaffia Maternal Care program. Twin rates are high in West Africa compared to the rest of the world (Smits and Monden).

MORTALITY AND MULTIPLE BIRTHS BY PREFECTURE

Prefecture	MMR* (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)	NMR* (neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births)	Twin Rate (multiple births per 1,000 live births)
Regional Average	396 (270-557)	24.9	21.4
Tandjoare / Tone	0	53.1	16
Tchaoudjo	1754	66.7	9.5
Tchamba	0	8.9	0
Alaffia	430	45.4	10.8

*Neonatal mortality reported for Togo in general in 2018 was 24.9 per 1,000 live births (WHO). Our rate is double in the Savanna region; this is not surprising as this is the poorest region in the country. Maternal mortality rates for Togo in 2017 averaged 396 overall, with high of 557 per 100,000 live births (WHO). We lost two mothers in Tchaoudjo, which also had the highest NMR of all our prefectures. This area has one of the highest female genital mutilation rates as well, which may be a factor.

Sources

Smits J., and C. Monden. "Twinning across the Developing World," September 28, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0025239>

WHO Global Health Observatory data repository. Probability of dying per 1000 live births Data by Country, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.182?lang=en>

WHO Global Health Observatory data repository. Maternal mortality Estimates by country, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.1390?lang=en>

RESULTS: Health

An important part of the **Maternal Health Program** is the trainings provided to the women beneficiaries. These trainings cover a wide range of topics related to maternal and family health. Trainings are offered to the women, their families, and other interested community members. They are conducted by our Togo staff and community health volunteers.

MATERNAL HEALTH TRAININGS BY PREFECTURE, 2019

Training Topic	Tandjouare	Tone	Tchaoudjo	Tchamba	Total
Benefits of Prenatal Consultations	154	142	141	115	552
Childbirth at Clinics, Signs of Childbirth	143	142	131	160	576
Hygiene During Pregnancy and after Childbirth	151	148	200	163	662
Advantages of Child Spacing	151	148	201	163	663
Advantages of Exclusive Breastfeeding 0 to 6 Months	153	153	168	173	647
Benefits of Vaccination	153	153	168	173	647
Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation	151	151	174	152	628

In addition to women beneficiaries, other family members and patients in clinics are encouraged to attend our trainings. Community health agents are present at all trainings as well.



Trainings are held at community health clinics, such as the training on importance of prenatal care above in Doupelou, Tandjouare prefecture, and below, where Ms. Hezou explains the consequences of female genital mutilation to women and their husbands outside the clinic in Balanka.



RESULTS: Education

Bicycles for Education is a major part of our education program. We collect used and unwanted bicycles in the US Pacific Northwest and ship them to Togo, where they are donated to students to help them get to and from school.

Over the 13 years of this program, we have found students with bicycles have a 91% chance of finishing high school. The overall graduation rate for rural students in Togo is 10%.

BICYCLES FOR EDUCATION 2019 DISTRIBUTIONS

Establishment	Beneficiary Type	Bikes
CEG KPANGALAM	Middle School Students	51
EPP KPONDJODJO	Primary School Students	15
EPP YARA-KABYE	Primary School Students	23
CEG YARA-KABYE	Middle School Students	30
COMPLEXE LAMA-TESSI	High School Students	30
COMPLEXE BAKHITA	High School Students	35
CEG DIDAOURE	Middle School Students	15
CEG TCHAWANDA	Middle School Students	15
LYCEE TCHAWANDA	High School Students	13
LYCEE TECHNIQUE	High School Students	7
Institut Polytechnique Moderne	High School Student	1
CEG KOMAH	Middle School Students	2
CEG TEHEZA	Middle School Students	30
CEG KABOLI	Middle School Students	70
Tchamba Health Clinics	Community Health Agents	15
Tchaoudjo Health Clinics	Community Health Agents	9
Tandjouare Health Clinics	Community Health Agents	21
Tone Health Clinics	Community Health Agents	15
Total		397

*This year we distributed bicycles to community health agents who act as volunteer liaisons between health clinics and village communities. They are an integral part of our maternal care program.



Middle and high school student beneficiaries of 2019, Lama-Tessi, Tchaoudjo prefecture, Togo.

2019 BICYCLE COLLECTIONS

Donor	Bikes
Portland Police Dept	350
Seattle Police Dept	168
Aberdeen Lions Club	115
Vancouver Police Dept	63
Lacey Police Dept	44
Tumwater Police Dept	26
Bike Works	19
Nova Middle School	18
Everett Police	18
Portland Bureau of Transportation	6
Other Donors	3
Total	830

We are grateful to US Pacific Northwest police departments and other organizations for ongoing bicycle donations.

Rather than go to the metal recyclers or landfills, abandoned and otherwise unused bikes find a second life in Togo, providing transportation for a student and their family.

We also welcome donations from individuals and are always open to organizing community bike drives.

RESULTS: Education

Building Schools is also a huge focus of our Education program. Since 2011, we have been building schools in low income communities that show a dedication to the education of their girls and boys.

Many of our schools are built with Alaffia retail partners, such as Whole Foods Market, Sprouts Farmers Market, and Mother's Market.

JEP DJAMA, Kindergarten in Kaboli, Togo



The Djama kindergarten was partially funded by Whole Foods Market and was part of their team member volunteer program. Eleven Whole Foods Market team members helped finish construction on the kindergarten in October.

Communities also participate in building and funding schools. Typically, the community will contribute five percent of the cost of the school with in-kind donations of local building materials, water, and labor.



JEP Djama, Kaboli, Togo in June 2019 and after, in October 2019.

The existing structure for the kindergarten at Djama primary school was constructed by the community in 2012 and consisted of mud brick and straw walls with a temporary tin roof. 62 children were enrolled at the Jardin d'Enfants (JEP) Djama last year, 33 girls and 29 boys. There were no latrines for the kindergarten students.

The new building is made of durable and naturally-cooling laterite concrete bricks. It contains two classrooms and an office. We also installed a latrine exclusively for the kindergarten students.



RESULTS: Environment

Togo is within the African Sahel, which forms a vulnerable “green wall” against encroaching deserts of North Africa and is a critical carbon sink for mitigating climate change. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of international attention on savanna tree cover losses, and without support for solutions, deforestation will continue.

Since 2006, Alaffia has been planting trees to help slow tree loss and bring awareness to the issue in our communities.

TREES PLANTED 2019, BY PREFECTURE

Préfecture	Establishment	Tree Species	Amount
Tone	Namare, Alaffia Shea Nut Collective	Acacia, Eucalyptus, Khaya	921
Tone	Gnabadioani, Village	Neem, Orange, Eucalyptus	46
Tone	Poussa, Village	Acacia, Neem, Eucalyptus	229
Tone	Tchankounkougong, Village	Acacia	66
Tone	Yabre, Farmer collective	Eucalyptus	427
Tone	Tambi, Farmer collective	Acacia	444
Tchaoudjo	CEG Kpangalam, Middle School	Acacia	250
Tchamba	EPP Datcha, Primary School	Acacia, Neem	150
Tchamba	EPP Djama Kaboli, Primary School	Acacia, Neem, Cassia	100
Tone	GACE Namare, Nursery	Acacia, Eucalyptus	2218
Tchaoudjo	GACE Sokodé, Nursery	Acacia, Neem, Moringa, Shea, Cassia, Khaya	7085
	Total		11936

SURVIVAL MATTERS

Many organizations plant "millions" of trees, but how many survive? Our reforestation project is about survival. We increase chances of tree survival by choosing species that are suitable for the environment and by planting them with community groups, such as schools, organized farmer collectives, and shea nut collector groups.

Groups are more likely to provide irrigation needed to get seedlings through the first dry season and protect the young trees from grazing livestock and wildfires.



NEW SPECIES ADDED

African Mahogany seeds. Photo credit: Deni Brown/IITA

Our reforestation program includes a mix of native and introduced species. Criteria for selection include usability by community, economic value, and survivability. This year we added a new species to our mix, *Khaya senegalensis*. Also known as African Mahogany, this native species is an important wood for carpentry and art in West Africa. Commonly known as “bois rouge” or red wood, it is favored by Togolese artists and furniture makers.

African Mahogany has experienced widespread exploitation over the past 20 years as a hardwood for export. Unfortunately, little natural regeneration takes place once disturbance occurs and there are no serious conservation efforts. As a result, it is considered a vulnerable species by International Union for Conservation of Nature.*

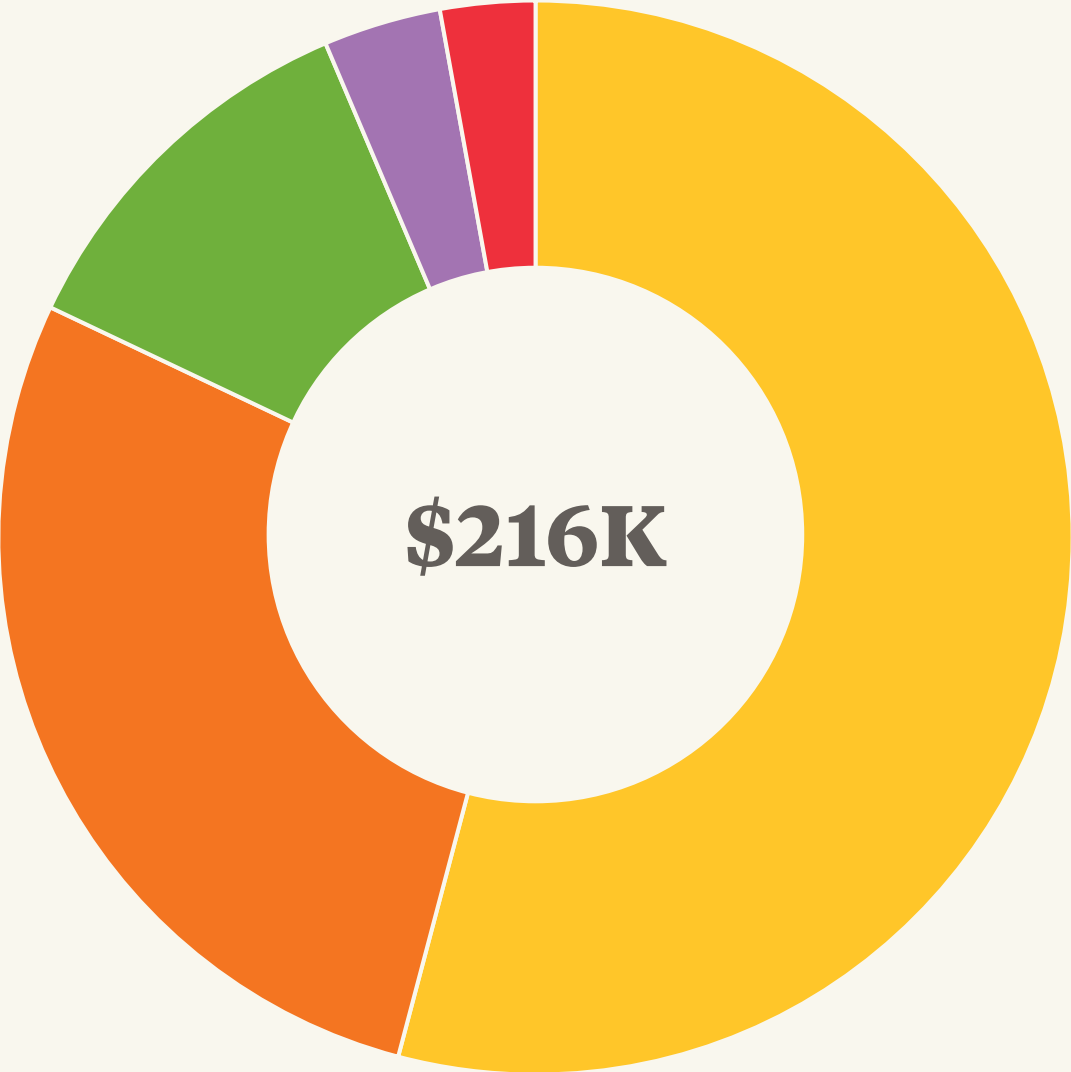
*Source: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/32171/9684583>

Financials

The Alaffia Foundation is proud to report a strong year of support from our customers and communities in 2019. A grant allowed us to expand Maternal Health into an underserved region, and Alaffia customers participated more than ever before.

Looking forward, we remain committed to our existing programs, and will continue to ensure sustainability and high-quality programs in all the communities we serve.

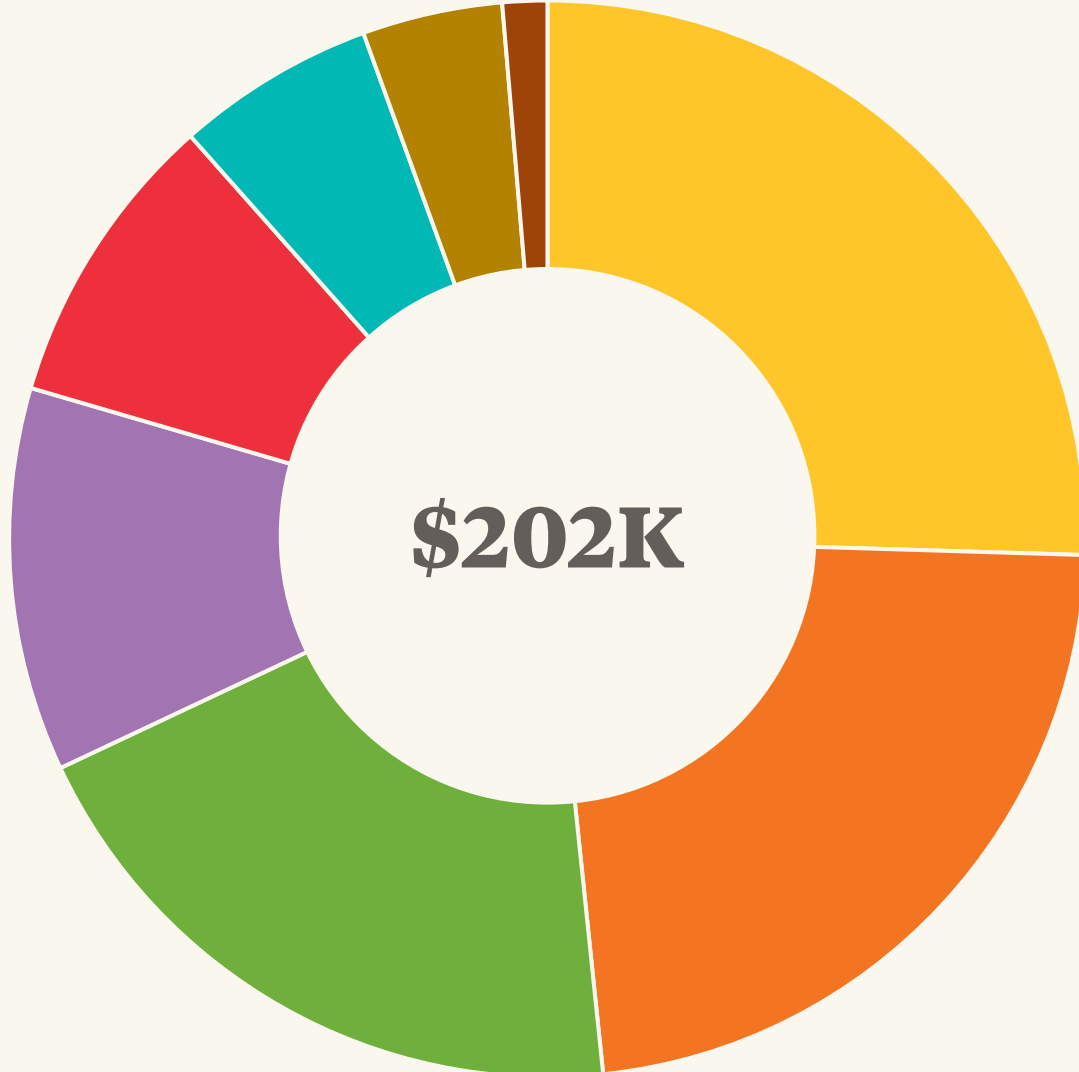
2019 CASH INCOME



- Alaffia Support.....54%
- Alaffia Customers.....28%
- Program Grants.....11.5%
- Individual Donors.....3.5%
- Bike Sales.....3.0%

This does not include in-kind donations of bicycles and eyeglasses which make up an important part of our budget. Bicycle donations mean we can spend funds on delivering bicycles rather than buying them.

2019 EXPENSES



- Maternal Health.....25%
- Bikes for Education.....23%
- Administration Togo.....20%
- School Construction.....12%
- Administration USA.....9%
- Education, Other.....6%
- Reforestation.....4%
- Eyeglasses.....1%

For the first time, we were able to raise enough funds in 2019 to cover the first month of expenses in 2020. This enabled us to continue operating our programs without interruption.

Thank You

Alaffia provides up to 67% of program funding, but your support is critical to ensure our work continues. Thanks to your generous support in 2019, over 26,000 individuals in some of the most impoverished communities in West Africa realized their rights to a safe pregnancy and childbirth, education, or a healthy place to live.

Your donation has not only improved these people's lives but helped strengthen their families and communities for years to come.

2019 DONORS

\$15,000+

LDS Charities
Sprouts Farmers Market
Earth Fare

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Whole Foods Market

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mabee Family Foundation
Craig Hille
Brandi Tanner
Sarah Johnson

\$100 - \$999

Charles Wright Academy
Global Connect
Lisa J Russell
Liz Lightner
Sis' Shula
Washington State Combined Charities Fund

Bicycle Donations

Portland Police Department
Lacey Police Department
Vancouver Police Department
Aberdeen Lions Club
Seattle Police Department
Everett Police Department
Tumwater Police Department
Portland Bureau of Transportation
Nova Middle School

Eyeglass Donation Drive

Batterton Brokerage
Capella Market
Co-Op Market Grocery & Deli
Down to Earth Natural Foods
Food Fantasies
Fresh Thyme Farmers Market
Fruitful Yield Health Foods
Goodwind's Trading
Green Top Grocery
GreenTree Cooperative Grocery
Health Food Shoppe
Jimbo's
Lakewinds Natural Foods Co-op
LifeSource Natural Foods
MAK Marketing
Market of Choice
Metcalf's Market
MOM's Organic Market
Mother Nature's Food, Inc
Mountain View Market CO-OP
Natural Grocers
Nature's Emporium - Maple
Neighborhood Co-op Grocery
New Leaf Market Co-op
Nutrition Plus
Outpost Co-op Capital
People's Food Cooperative
PFC Kalamazoo Co-op
Raisin Rack
Seward Community Co-op
Seward Co-op Friendship Store
St. Peter Food Co-op
Sugar Beet Food Co-op
Swanson Health
Vitamin Cottage
Wedge Community Cooperative
Wheatsfield Coop

LEADERSHIP



Togo Team (left to right)

Back row: Yawa Agbogan (Accountant), Mele Abbey (Secretary Bookkeeper), Abina Batchatiko (Health Manager, Tchaoudjo), Madabouwe Takema (Secretary Bookkeeper, Dapaong), Hezouwe Takougnadi (Health Manager, Tchamba), Hortense Adjoavi Koffi (National Operations Director), Larba Monne (Coordinator Dapaong Office), Ibadatou Tchala (Assistant National Operations Director), Makliwe Bassim (Education Manager)

Front row: Winiga Hrahouta, (Driver), Salissou Hama-Bagui (Nurseryman), Essowazina Igbeleou (Bike Mechanic), Abdouraziz Gado (Environment Manager), Sadikou Morou (Bike Mechanic)

Not Pictured: Kokou Adji (Security Guard, Dapaong), Ayouba Ouro-Djobo (Nurseryman at Namare, Dapaong)

US Team

Olowo-n'djo Tchala (President), Prairie Rose Hyde (Vice President), Kate Cissna (Board Member, Bike Program Coordinator), Maria Mason (Board Member), Melissa Jones (Board Member)

Looking Forward

Due to the undeniable need, Alaffia will continue funding ongoing programs in our West African communities.

Together, we can do even more. Your support will enable us to reach more communities, more individuals, so they can reach their potential and be sustained for generations to come.



It will take a village.

Our success is the result of a collaboration of many partners. You too can be part of this journey.

VOLUNTEER. We are always looking for energetic volunteers to prepare bicycles for shipping or sort eyeglasses.

DONATE. Since Alaffia's support covers all administrative costs in US and in Togo, all donations go 100% to program costs.

PARTNER with us. Join our team of likeminded organizational partners to make a lasting impact through opportunities like building a school, sponsoring a specific program, or hosting a bike drive.

For more information on how to DONATE, VOLUNTEER, or SPONSOR, visit our site at <https://alaffia.foundation>

or email us at foundation@alaffia.com