

# 2021 Annual Report

Global Alliance for Community Empowerment





# We are a Community.

The Global Alliance for Community Empowerment (GACE), is a non-profit empowering woman in Togo and Ghana, West Africa. GACE advances the fair trade of natural resources, expands access to education, water and maternal health services, and reduces the impacts of climate change.

*Planting trees at CEG Komah, February 2021*

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# Mission

Our mission is to empower 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.

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## 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.

# 2021 IMPACT

## MATERNAL CARE

800 Women Recruited

794 New Lives

1200 Women Trained on Health & Hygiene

38 Community Health Agents Contracted

## EDUCATION

1 School Built

## ENVIRONMENT

5097 Trees Planted

# Impact on Real Lives

GACE'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 a big, long-term 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 of some of the hundreds of individuals whose lives were directly impacted by the Maternal Care program in the Savanna Region in 2021.



## Affia ISSAH Maternal Health Beneficiary

Affia ISSAH with her 4-month-old son outside her family home in Tambonga, Togo.

Affia and her husband are farmers in the Kpenjal West region, located in the northwest area of the country. While they have land to farm, they struggle to provide more than basic sustenance for their six children because of changing rainfall patterns and soil degradation.

In Affia's words, "I didn't know how I was going to live through these tough times and have a safe birth. Thanks to GACE I have no debts to anyone for this side, to the contrary the little money I was able to earn in my field work allowed me to meet at least certain needs during my pregnancy. Just by seeing this child grow up and in good health, I give thanks to GACE and all those who have contributed to the smooth running of this project and pray that this project lasts as long as possible so that other needy women also benefit from it.



## **Baryatou SEIDOU** Maternal Health Beneficiary

Baryatou SEIDOU and her child at home in Alegba, Togo.

Baryatou was six-months pregnant when she was accepted into the Maternal Care program. She had given birth at home to her previous two children. With this pregnancy, she feared she would have to do the same.

Baryatou had not had any prenatal consultations when she joined the program. However, after being accepted, Baryatou quickly caught up with her appointments and participated in the trainings.

She attributes the care she received to her fast recovery after giving birth. She appreciates the advice she received during the trainings and has already begun putting the things she learned in practice for the benefit of her family.



## **Anifa TCHADJOB** Maternal Health Beneficiary

Anifa and her six-week-old son, Bayane in Bouroude, Togo.

Bayane was Anifa's tenth pregnancy. All nine previous pregnancies were delivered at home, and she lost two of her babies. With one, she too almost lost her life because of excessive bleeding.

After being selected as a 2021 participant, Anifa says, "For the first time in my life, I did a pregnancy check-up; I also carried out all prenatal consultations and gladly received the GACE trainings. I was especially marked by the awareness raising on the consequences of home births and the importance of family planning.

I ask Almighty God to bless GACE so they can continue to help poor women without any information on maternal health like me

# RESULTS: Births

SUMMARY TABLE OF BIRTHS, All Regions, 2021

REGION	Clinic Name	Total Women	Total Live Babies	Miscarriages	Infant Deaths	Sets of Twins	Single births	Twin Rate*	MMR**	NMR***
KPENDJAL WEST	USP PAPRI	40	43			3	37	75	0	0
KPENDJAL WEST	USP POGNO	44	45			1	43	23	0	0
KPENDJAL WEST	USP TAMBONGA	35	36			1	34	29	0	0
KPENDJAL WEST	USP TCHIMOURI	31	30		1	0	30	0	0	32
TANDJOARE	USP DOUKPELOU	53	52	1		0	52	0	0	0
TANDJOARE	CMS NANO	45	47			2	43	44	0	0
TANDJOARE	USP NASSONGUE	48	50			2	46	42	0	0
TANDJOARE	USP NAYERGOU	47	47			0	47	0	0	0
TANDJOARE	USP YEMBOUR	57	58			1	56	18	0	0
TCHAOUDJO	USP BOWOUNDA	23	22	1		0	22	0	0	0
TCHAOUDJO	USP KASSENA	58	56	3		1	54	18	0	0
TCHAOUDJO	USP AGOULOU	50	49	1		0	49	0	0	0
TCHAOUDJO	USP WASSARABO	35	33	2		0	33	0	0	0
TCHAOUDJO	USP KPASSOUADE	34	32	2		0	32	0	0	0
TCHAMBA	USP KOULOUMI	15	14		1	0	14	0	0	67
TCHAMBA	USP BALANKA	32	32	2		2	28	67	0	0
TCHAMBA	USP GOUBI	30	29		1	0	29	0	0	33
TCHAMBA	CMS KABOLI	73	73			0	73	0	0	0
TCHAMBA	CMS KOUSSOUNTOU	50	46	2	2	0	46	0	0	42
<b>TOTAL GACE 2021</b>		800	794	14	5	13	768	17	0	6
<b>PUBLISHED AVG FOR TOGO</b>								18	396	25

\*Normal twin rates in Togo are above 18 per 1,000 live births. Our results of 13 multiple births from our 800 mothers gives a rate of 17 per 1,000 live births.

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

\*\*Maternal Mortality rates for Togo in 2017 averaged 396 overall, with high of 557 per 100,000 live births. These rates would have predicted at least 3 maternal deaths with 800 births and gives us justification that prenatal care does indeed save lives.

\*\*\*Neonatal Mortality reported for Togo in general in 2018 was 24.9 per 1,000 live births (WHO). Our overall rate matches this, but is not surprising as we work within the poorest regions in the country. There is a lack of good data at the region level.

Source: WHO Global Health Observatory data repository. Probability of dying per 1000 live births Data by Country, Maternal mortality Estimates by country <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.182?lang=en>, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.1390?lang=en>

# RESULTS: Trainings

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 GACE staff and Community Health Volunteers.

## SUMMARY TABLE OF MATERNAL HEALTH TRAININGS, 2021

Number of Participants (women beneficiaries / other participants)\*

Training Topic	Women Beneficiaries	Other (Family, Health Agent, Clinic Staff)	Total
<b>Program Overview</b> : Presentation of ALAFFIA and GACE structure - their interaction - The mission of GACE and how GACE is financed, its operation, its various fields of action, its areas of intervention, the criteria for choosing beneficiaries by activity component, the terms and conditions of the care of women beneficiaries of maternal health, the types of care covered by GACE, the method of reimbursement of the costs covered, the awareness topics developed in the context of maternal health, the commitments and responsibilities of each pregnant woman supported.	800	400	1200
<b>Benefit of Prenatal Consultations</b> : Defining prenatal and curative consultations, the advantages of prenatal and curative consultations, the ideal period to start the prenatal consultation.	769	317	1086
<b>Childbirth and Excision</b> : Definition of childbirth and the signs of the onset of labor. The consequences of home birth to the baby and the mother. The consequences of excision (female genital mutilation) on health of women.	731	153	884
Hygiene During and After Pregnancy: Definition of hygiene-Types of hygiene (environmental, body, clothing and food hygiene), Hygiene during and after pregnancy, Baby-related hygiene	753	166	919
Family Planning: Definition of family planning- The different methods of family planning (temporary methods, long-term, or permanent methods)- The advantages of family planning on the health level , the socio-economic level, and the demographic level.	742	163	905
Benefits of Breastfeeding and Child Vaccinations: Definition of exclusive breastfeeding (0 to 6 months) and it's advantages, Conditions for successful breastfeeding. Definition and advantages of childhood vaccinations, Vaccination schedules.	743	178	921

\*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.



# RESULTS: Eyeglass Distribution

## READING AND SUNGLASS DISTRIBUTIONS 2021

Region	Prefecture	No. Recipients
Central	Tchaoudjo	297
	Tchamba	38
	Sotouboua	3
Kara	Assoli	1
	Bassar	1
	Binah	3
	Kara	1
	Kante	2
Plateau	Kpalime	3
Savanna	Dapaong	1
Lome	Lome	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>375</b>

\*This year we distributed only reading and sunglasses that do not require a prescription.



When a child has a vision problem, he/she will struggle to succeed in school.

When a parent or young adult has a vision problem, he/she may struggle to produce income for not only themselves, but their young and old family members who depend on them.

When an elderly person has a vision problem, like cataracts, which are very common in Africa due to sun damage, their world becomes limited often to their front doorstep or household compound.

GACE collects new and good condition used reading and sunglasses to distribute to disadvantaged individuals in Togo. This keeps the glasses out of landfills and helps improve quality of life.

# RESULTS: Education

**Bicycles for Education** has been 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 15 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

2021 was the first year since 2007 that we did not distribute bicycles in Togo. This is a direct result of the disruption in bicycle collections caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we did continue to collect bicycles from the Seattle Police Department and Aberdeen Lion's Club. We donated 25 children's bikes unsuitable for our program to the Lion's Club of Aberdeen, WA for their "Bicycles from Heaven" program. The Lions Club collects used and discarded bicycles, pays to have them refurbished to "Like New" condition, and presents them to underprivileged people.

In addition, we conducted follow up visits and maintenance on existing bicycle donations in several communities and schools. Each year, we conduct these visits to ensure worn parts are replaced or fixed and that the students know how to keep their bicycles properly maintained.



## 2021 BICYCLE COLLECTIONS

Donor	Bikes
Seattle Police Dept	101
Aberdeen Lions Club	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>

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.

# 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 our private enterprise partners, including Alaffia, Presence Marketing, and others.

## CEG TAMBONGA, in the Savanna Region



*Tambonga Secondary School before GACE program, 2019*

The existing structure of the Tambonga Secondary School was a semi-enclosed earthen shed built by the community in 2008. Because of the lack of space, students were being transferred to an Islamic school over 2 kilometers away. In 2020, after appeals from the community, teachers, and local authorities, GACE decided to construct a new school building for Tambonga.

The new building is made of durable and naturally-cooling laterite concrete bricks. It contains four classrooms and an office.

The Tambonga Secondary School is located in the village of Tambonga in the East Kpendjal precture of northern Togo. The school was funded in part by Presence .Marketing, a natural products broker who raised funds in 2020 to support the construction.

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.

This new school building provides a safe and secure learning space for 500 students, including 180 girls and 320 boys.



# 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, GACE has been planting trees to help slow tree loss and bring awareness to the issue in our communities.

## TREES PLANTED 2021, BY PREFECTURE

Préfecture	Establishment	Tree Species	Amount
Tone	Namare, Shea Collective Titadiliabe	Shea, Eucalyptus, Kaya	1500
Tone	Namare Secondary School	Acacia, Eucalyptus	125
Tone	Nandjak, Shea Collective T'moinibe	Shea, Eucalyptus	250
Tone	Yabre, Shea Collective Talguintande	Eucalyptus, Kaya	300
Kpendjal East	Tambonga Secondary School	Acacia, Eucalyptus, Kaya, Neem	500
Sotouboua	Sossossi Shea Collective Souroutawi	Acacia, Kaya, Moringa, Shea	520
Sotouboua	Sossossi Primary School	Acacia, Kaya, Neem	230
Tchaoudjo	Nigbaoude Shea Collective Union	Acacia, Kaya, Moringa, Shea	622
Tchaoudjo	Essovale Primary School	Acacia, Neem, Kaya, Moringa	430
Tchaoudjo	Tivedrou Primary School	Acacia, Kaya, Moringa, Neem	300
Tchaoudjo	Agbandaoude Kindergarten	Acacia, Neem, Kaya	320
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5097</b>

## 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.

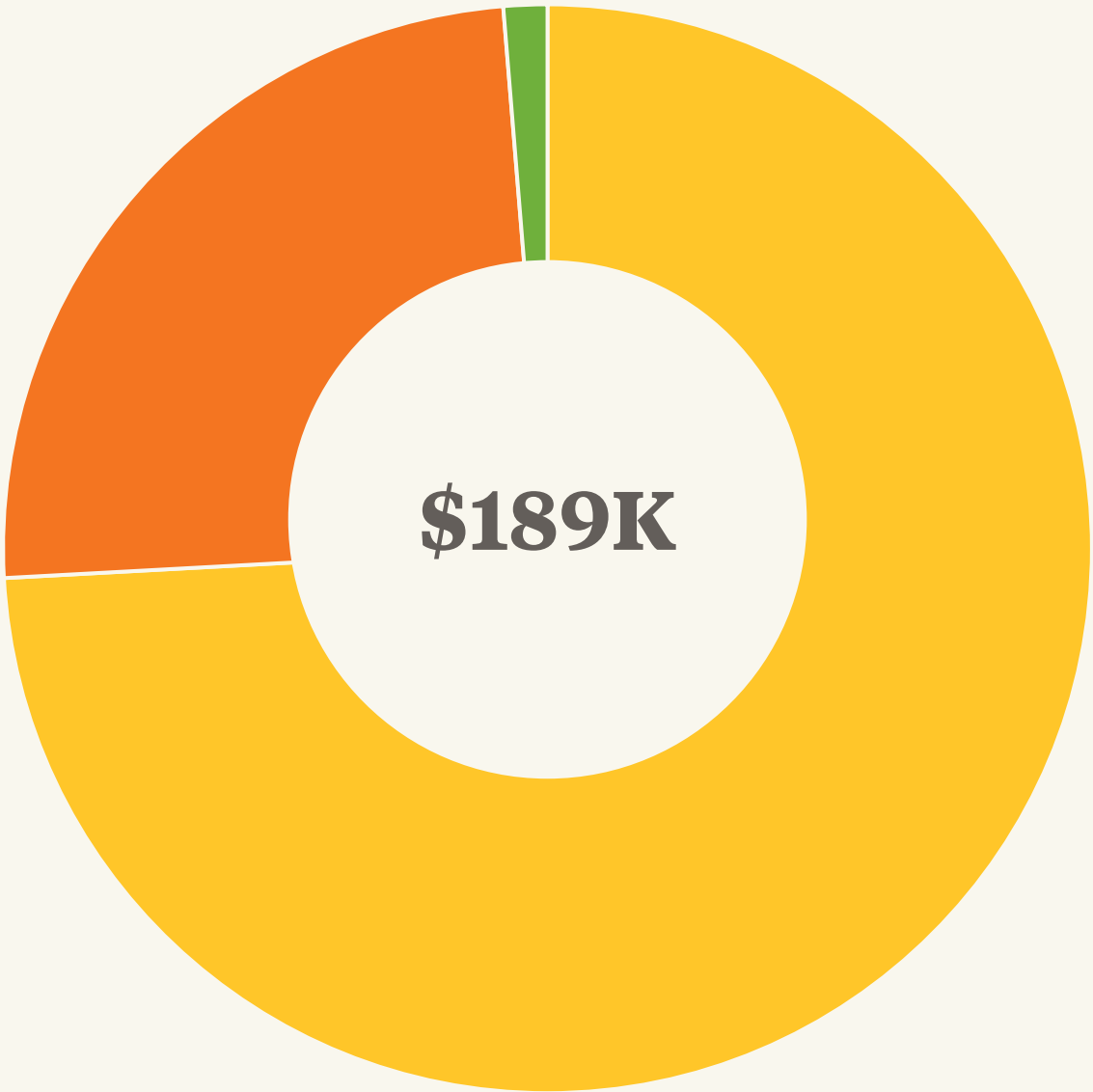


# Financials

GACE is proud to report a strong year of support from our fair trade partners.

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.

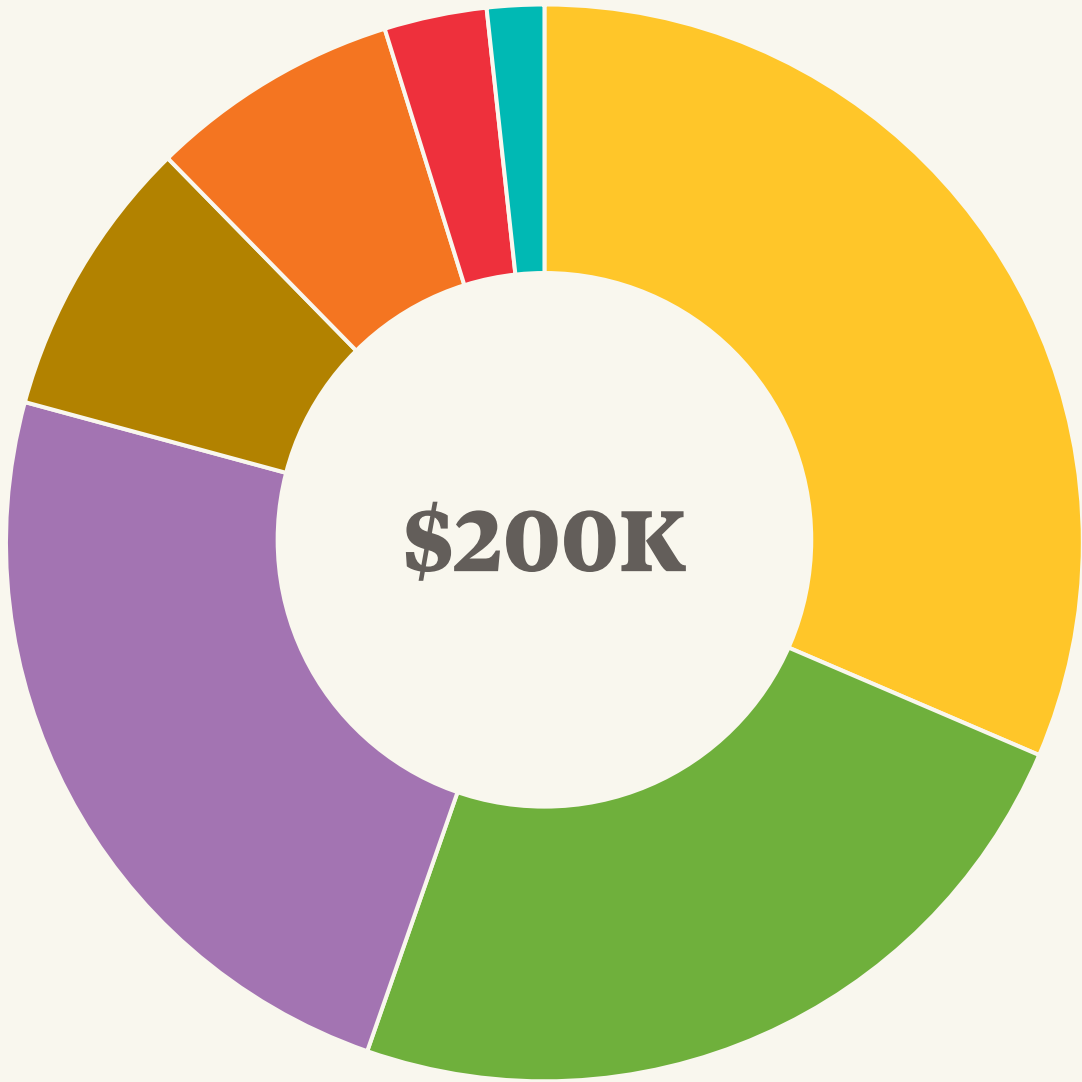
2021 CASH INCOME



■ Fair Trade Premium.....74%
 ■ Major Donors.....25%
 ■ Individual Donors.....1%

This does not include in-kind donations of bicycles and eyeglasses which make up an important part of our budget.

2021 EXPENSES



■ Maternal Health.....31%
 ■ Administration Togo.....24%
 ■ School Construction.....24%
 ■ Reforestation.....8.5%
 ■ Bikes for Education.....7.5%
 ■ Administration USA.....3%
 ■ Eyeglasses.....2%

# 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.

## 2021 DONORS

### \$15,000+

Presence Marketing  
Alaffia

### \$5,000 - \$14,999

Whole Foods Market

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Mabee Family Foundation  
Craig Hille  
Christine Tzumas  
Sarah Johnson

### \$100 - \$999

Steven Luz Fox  
Sis' Shula  
Washington State Combined Charities  
Fund

### Bicycle Donations

Lacey Police Department  
Aberdeen Lions Club  
Seattle Police Department

### 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, GACE 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 our Fair Trade partner 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 other support.

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

or email us at [gace@empowermentalliance.org](mailto:gace@empowermentalliance.org)