

2022 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.

Country Director Hortense Adjoavi Santos participating in the Strategy for Conflict Prevention and Promotion of Stability Roundtable with USAID and the US Embassy, October 2022

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION.....	3
IMPACT.....	4
PROGRAM RESULTS.....	5
FINANCIALS.....	11
OUR DONORS.....	12
WHAT’S AHEAD	13



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.

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.

EDUCATION

500 Students with safe learning space

BICYCLES

314 Donated Bicycles Shipped

MATERNAL CARE

400 Women Supported Trained on Health & Hygiene

383 Safe Births

ENVIRONMENT

9048 Trees Planted



RESULTS: Births

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 MATERNAL CARE PROGRAM, All Regions, 2022

ZONE OF ACTION			NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	
REGION	PREFECTURE	VILLAGE	WOMEN SUPPORTED	LIVE BIRTHS
SAVANES	TANDJOUARE	DOUKPELOU	20	20
		NANO	35	34
		NASSONGUE	42	42
		NAYERGOU	41	36
		YEMBOUR	25	26
		TOTAL	163	158
	TONE	NAMARE	35	33
		TOTAL	35	33
	KPENDJAL OUEST	PAPRI	20	18
		POGNO	43	40
		TAMBONGA	16	16
TCHIMOURI		23	23	
TOTAL		102	97	
KARA	ASSOLI	BOULADE	34	33
		GANDE	12	11
		GNINGUALIA	22	21
		KOUMONDE	12	11
		SOUDOU	20	19
		TOTAL	100	95
TOTAL			400	383

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, 2022

Number of Participants (women beneficiaries / other participants)*

Training Topic	Women Beneficiaries	Other (Family, Health Agent, Clinic Staff)	Total
Program Overview : 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.	400	200	600
Benefit of Prenatal Consultations: Defining prenatal and curative consultations, the advantages of prenatal and curative consultations, the ideal period to start the prenatal consultation.	395	107	502
Childbirth and Excision: 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.	369	124	493
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	388	141	529
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.	388	141	529
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.	379	128	507

*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 2022

Region	Prefecture	No. Recipients
Central	Tchaoudjo	287
	Tchamba	60
	Blitta	3
	Sotouboua	13
Kara	Assoli	42
	Kozah	3
	Dankpene	3
	Kara	2
	Niamtougou	1
	Bafilo	1
	Doufelgou	1
	Kante	2
Plateau	Mo	2
	Atakpame	1
Savanna	Cinkasse	1
	Dapaong	220
	Kpendjal-West	6
	Tanjouare	24
	Oti	1
Lome	Avi	2
	Lome	24
Total		697



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.

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

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 17 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%.

We continued to collect bicycles from the Seattle Police Department, Thurston County Sheriff's Office, and the Aberdeen WA Lion's Club. We donated 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.

In October, we shipped 314 bicycles via ocean freight to be inspected, tuned, and distributed to students in 2023.



Donated Bicycles loaded into shipping container in Olympia, WA October 2022.

2022 BICYCLE ACTIVITY

Activity	Bikes
Seattle Police Dept Donations	42
Thurston County Sheriff Donations	12
Bicycles Shipped to Togo	314

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 build 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 prefecture 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.

Construction began on a new school building for the Tambonga Secondary School in 2021, and was finalized in January 2022. This 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, Farmer’s Collective	Eucalyptus, Kaya	161
Tone	Namare Secondary School	Acacia, Cassia, Neem	300
Tone	Nandjak, Shea Collective T’moinibe	Shea, Senna, Cassia, Kaya, Moringa, Acacia	4191
Tone	Dapaong Nassebleli Secondary School	Teak, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Kaya	400
Kara	Tenga Shea Group	Shea	500
Sotouboua	Sossossi Shea Collective Souroutawi	Senna, Shea, Cassia, Kaya, Moringa, Acacia, Neem	350
Tchaoudjo	Nigbaoude Shea Collective Union	Senna, Shea, Cassia, Kaya, Moringa, Acacia, Neem	350
Tchaoudjo	Datcha, GACE Demonstration Plot	Senna, Moringa, Neem	940
Tchaoudjo	Talamonade Youth Cooperative	Teak, Cassia, Kaya, Acacia	690
Tchaoudjo	Tchalo High School	Shea, Cassia, Acacia	320
Tchaoudjo	Sokode Area Schools	Cassia, Kaya, Moringa, Acacia, Teak, Senna	710
	Total		9048

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. This year, survival rates of saplings was low, less than 60%, due to late and unpredictable rainfall in the savanna region.



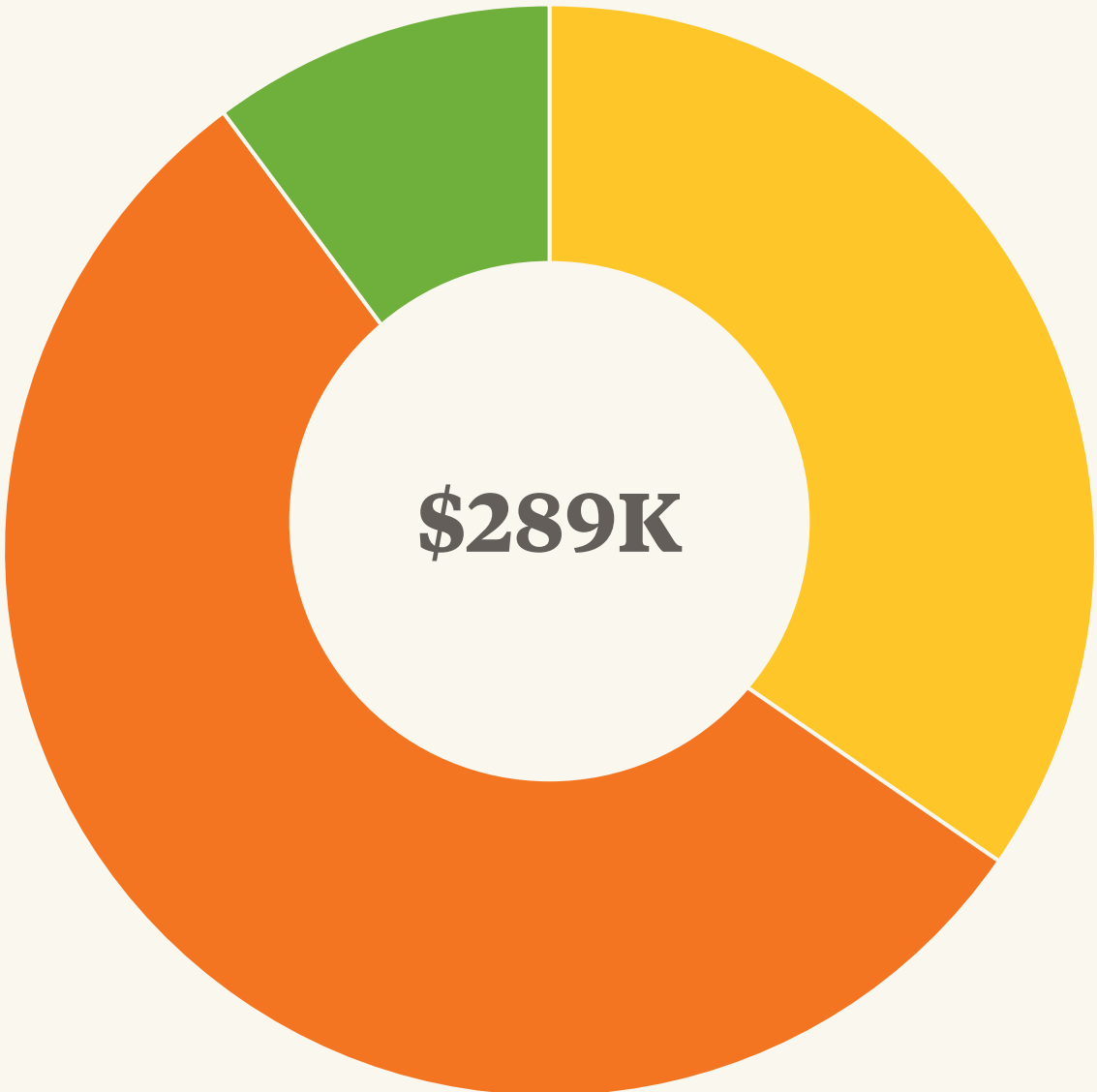
Mango trees planted by GACE and Kouloumi Secondary School, four years after planting.

Financials

Our primary donor in 2022 was The Honey Pot Company, whose support in 2022 was for expanded maternal health coverage in 2021 and 2022.

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.

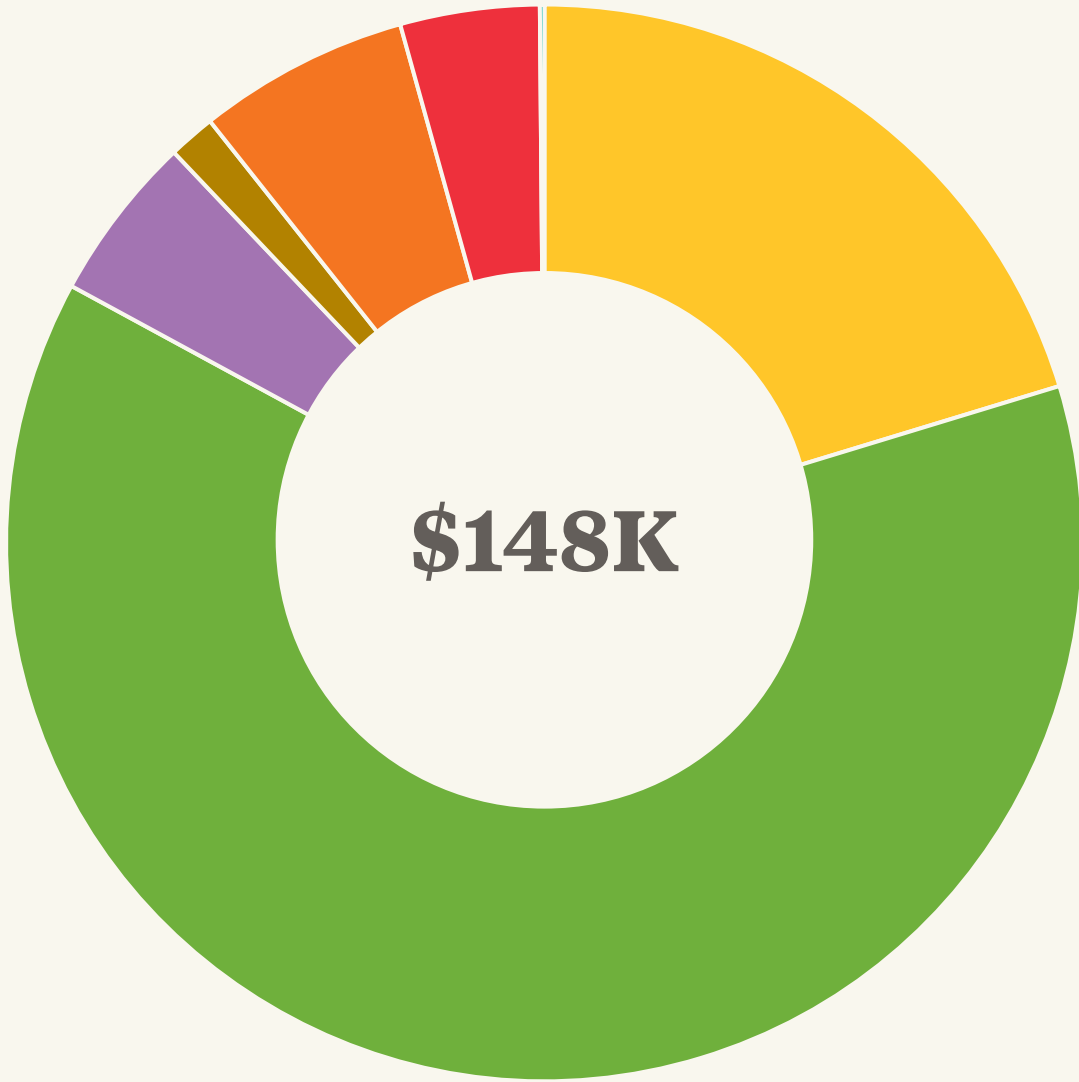
2022 CASH INCOME



- Fair Trade Premium.....32%
- Major Donors.....59%
- Individual Donors.....9%

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

2022 CASH EXPENSES



- Maternal Health.....20%
- School Construction.....5%
- Bikes for Education.....6%
- Eyeglasses.....1%
- Administration Togo.....63%
- Reforestation.....1%
- Administration USA.....4%

2022 Programs were reduced as GACE board of directors restructured and funding shifts from primarily Fair Trade premiums to other more traditional sources.

Thank You

Fair Trade premiums from our private partners provides up to 67% of program funding, but your support is critical to ensure our work continues. Thanks to your generous support in 2022, over 7,000 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.

2022 DONORS

\$15,000+

The Honey Pot Company
Black Buffalo International LLC

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Olowo-n'djo Tchala

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mabee Family Foundation
Craig Hille
Tori Soudan
Sarah Johnson

\$100 - \$999

Latris and Michael
Sis' Shula
Washington State Combined
Charities Fund

Bicycle Donations

Thurston County Sheriff
Aberdeen Lions Club
Seattle Police Department

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 Takounadi (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 Board of Directors

Olowo-n'djo Tchala (President), Prairie Rose Hyde (Vice President), Maria Mason, Pearl Servat, Rhobhi Matinyi, Johanne Home, and Vernice Jones.

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