

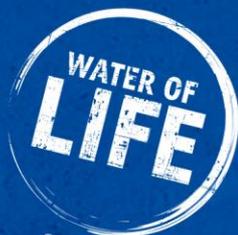
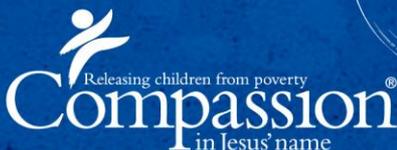


**RESPOND**

WITH COMPASSION

COMPASSION WATER  
OF LIFE  
TOGO

Completion report for initiative TG-013597





## OVERVIEW

LOCATION	Compassion child development centres across Togo
INITIATIVE	Compassion Water of Life: the distribution of safe water systems
BENEFICIARIES	1,000 Compassion-assisted children and their families
FUNDING	£50,000
START DATE	Summer 2013

## BACKGROUND

Compassion International exists to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Working in partnership with over 6,300 church partners in 26 countries, the ministry now has over 1.5 million children registered in its holistic child development programmes.

Access to safe, clean water is a fundamental human need. Yet, more than 1 billion people worldwide have no access to a safe water source and every day over 4,000 children are dying of easily preventable water-related diseases such as cholera and typhoid.<sup>1</sup> In Togo the need is critical: only 61 per cent of the population have access to a safe water source.<sup>2</sup>

Compassion has been working in Togo since 2008. Before the first stage of Compassion's Water of Life initiative was implemented in Togo, the majority of Compassion's 46 church partners had no access to a safe water source. For example, in Lomé, the capital city, only 30 per cent of the projects could purchase water from reliable boreholes in their communities. The situation in rural areas was even worse as none of Compassion's church partners had reliable, safe drinking water. Staff members were forced to use water from unsafe and contaminated sources to give to the 9,906 children who were registered in Compassion's programmes. Children were getting sick, with for instance one project in Lomé reporting that more than 70 per cent of the diseases afflicting sponsored children were water related (gastrointestinal diseases 12 per cent, stomatological diseases 14 per cent, skin conditions 26 per cent and respiratory diseases 32 per cent).

Whenever a situation such as this arises, and children in Compassion's programmes have a critical need that cannot be met by their monthly sponsorship support alone, Compassion launches a RESPOND Initiative. The first phase of the Water of Life distribution provided safe water systems to Compassion sponsored children and their families in 14 projects. This second phase has provided 3,442 filters to families in a further 14 projects. Compassion UK was able to fund 1,000 of these filters, partnering with donors in the USA and Switzerland for the remaining 2,442.



<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, 2012

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, 2010





## IMPLEMENTATION

Once funds were received, an inspection and planning meeting was held with the local pastors, church committee members and project coordinators from each of the 14 beneficiary projects. It served to officially inform the churches about the initiative, familiarising the stakeholders with the content, roles and responsibilities. They were reportedly very happy and praised the Lord for His kindness. The project coordinators then set about developing an action plan after reviewing the data.

Compassion Togo collaborated with three local organisations and state institutions to ensure a smooth import process for the filters. Compassion Togo was able to secure a significant reduction in the VAT charges, from 18 per cent to 4.5 per cent. This was due to the credibility which Compassion Togo has earned, and on the understanding that the filters would be freely distributed. Agents from the Customs Legislation Department were present during the distribution to ensure this was adhered to. Once the containers were cleared at the port, they were delivered to the Compassion Togo office to be distributed.

Compassion staff in Togo then met with a representative of the filter manufacturer in Togo to finalise the training and distribution plan. The week starting 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013 saw the required filters transported to each project and on the 24<sup>th</sup> an official launch ceremony was held at TG-108, Assemblies of God Church of Lébé.

The Compassion Togo Director spoke at the event. More than 200 people including the community elders, the village health facility director, the primary and secondary school authorities, parents and caregivers, church committee members and project staff attended the event.

The launch helped to advocate for children, highlighting the ministry of the church in partnership with Compassion to poor children in the community, the issues of safe water in the area and the importance of the filters. Some specialists helped to demonstrate how to set up the filter and how to use it. Reporters from two television stations, three radio stations and two online news outlets were present and helped to broadcast the event.<sup>3</sup>

After the launch, project staff participated in technical training about the filter which they then replicated at each project alongside the filter distribution to each family.



The Compassion Togo Director delivering his speech

<sup>3</sup> Local media reports about the launch ceremony can be found at:  
<http://www.savoirnews.net/Pour-aider-les-populations-a>  
<http://www.ecovisionafrik.com/togo-les-filtres-de-la-compassion/>





The table below details the distribution at each project:

	Project	Location	Families	Project staff	Projects and local churches	Total
1	TG-107	Gbamahlan	195	29	14	238
2	TG-108	Lébé	180	28	14	222
3	TG-109	Avéta	182	27	14	223
4	TG-210	Djagblé	190	26	15	231
5	TG-302	Adétikopé	228	29	14	271
6	TG-507	Djagblé	217	29	14	260
7	TG-508	Yogon	216	34	14	264
8	TG-509	Kpomé	207	34	15	256
9	TG-621	Tonoukouti	205	34	14	253
10	TG-702	Adétikopé	215	31	14	260
11	TG-804	Gnamadzi	180	33	14	227
12	TG-805	Sagonou	199	35	14	248
13	TG-806	Dzogblakopé	200	31	14	245
14	TG-903	Djagblé	204	26	14	244
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2818</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>3442</b>

Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, a total of 2,581 people took part in the technical training, 75 per cent of whom were caregivers. To enable the projects to provide appropriate hygiene training to caregivers on an on-going basis, Compassion Togo liaised with *Eau et Assainissement en Afrique* (EAA: Water and Sanitation in Africa) an organisation that specialises in capacity building of communities and institutions in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) initiatives.

In September 2013 EAA provided training for 41 health workers from the projects to increase their knowledge and practice in Water, Hygiene and Sanitation and how to handle participative training for adults. A WASH training kit developed as part of this initiative, including illustrations and comments about worst and best practices, was provided to each of the health workers. The projects undertook hygiene training for the caregivers and these kits assisted the project staff to carry it out. Project staff also provided support to households who had difficulties putting the kits together. The home visits also served as a means to refresh the caregivers and their families about the training they had received.

In April 2014, a meeting was held at TG-903 with staff from all of the projects. The meeting agreed on the parameters for the survey each project was to conduct in their community on the use of the filters and the application of WASH practices. A questionnaire was developed to gather the data and over 130 volunteers and project workers were involved in data collection.

One of the main challenges faced was that many families did not have enough space for the filter system in their houses. These families were advised on various ways to set up the system differently.





## IMPACT

The life-long effectiveness of Compassion Water of Life means that this simple initiative has extensive health, educational and economic benefits for the Togolese children and their families.

- ④ When children are healthy they can go to school and receive the skills required to secure stable employment.
- ④ By giving children sustained protection from diarrhoea, they will be less at risk from malnutrition and stunting.
- ④ Safe water will mean that a family needs fewer resources to treat illness; over a lifetime this financial saving could be significant.

### The incidence of waterborne diseases before and after filter distribution<sup>4</sup>

	Intestinal parasites/ worms	Dysentery	Diarrhoea	Skin infections	Respiratory tract infections	Eye infections
June 2013	56	0	10	42	56	11
June 2014	24	0	3	15	19	5

Although incidences of waterborne and water-related diseases vary during different seasons of the year, comparison of incidence rates over the same period (June) prior to and after the filter distribution shows that about ten months after this intervention:

- ④ intestinal parasites have been reduced by almost 57 per cent
- ④ diarrhoea has been reduced by 70 per cent
- ④ skin infections have been reduced by up to 64 per cent
- ④ respiratory infections have been reduced by up to 66 per cent
- ④ eye infections have been reduced by about 45 per cent

The first variable measured by the survey was to find out if the interviewed householder had received the filter system. The results revealed that 99.3 per cent of all interviewed householders acknowledged they had received the filters.

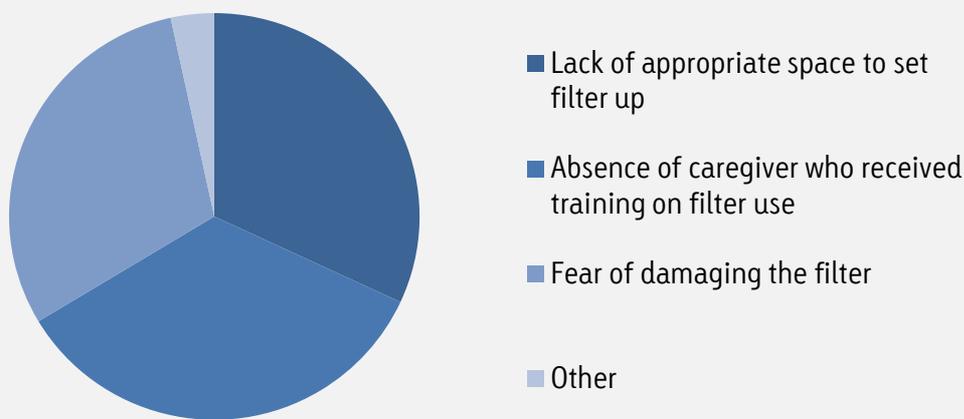
<sup>4</sup> Activity report from one of the projects. The results of the survey carried out support these conclusions.





This set the basis of the following analysis as all interviewed people are caregivers who effectively received the filter. The survey revealed that out of the total number of interviewed caregivers, 75.4 per cent were still using the filters eight months after the distribution, compared to 24.6 per cent who were not. The following reasons were given for not using the filters:

### Reasons given for not using the filter system



Project staff were thus encouraged to carry out intentional home visits to these caregivers to ensure that the key issues were explained and addressed appropriately.

### BENEFITS

The survey also revealed the benefits of using the Water of Life filters which were noted by the caregivers. 73.3 per cent of the households confirmed that the greatest benefit was the decrease of waterborne and water-related diseases. This outcome has consequently reduced project health expenses. For example in the past, at least three children every week at TG-702 were suffering from intestinal disease and now there are none. This is due to the fact that the children have clean water at home, at the project and even at school.

### The benefits associated with the use of Water of Life filters

Benefits	Caregivers	Percentage
Decrease of waterborne diseases	1,007	73.3
No longer have to purchase water	142	10.3
Money saved	103	7.5
Don't know	55	4.0
Improved relations with neighbours	36	2.6
Other	30	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>100</b>





## INTERVIEWS

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### Interview with Mr Kaza Kokou, chairman of TG-702: Charité vie profonde Child Development Centre.

#### What was your life like before this initiative?

My life and the lives of the people in our community were greatly challenged by securing safe water. We used to collect water from inappropriate sources like rivers and it caused a lot of disease. Every week at the project we recorded three cases of disease related to unclean water.

#### Please describe how the completed initiative will affect the lives of people in this community.

Parents and children are very happy. The filters are now with us and our children and community members are drinking safe water. It has helped to significantly reduce the challenges related to unsafe water and disease. Based on the training we conducted for the caregivers, their behaviours are changing because they understood many things, for instance the need for appropriate hand washing and for covering water all the time to avoid pollution.

#### How would you describe the impact of this initiative to those who made it possible?

Through this initiative the number of diseases related to unsafe water has reduced greatly. Safe water is now available for us. The funds we used in past to buy water and treat children when they got sick, is now used for other needs. This initiative is a blessing for our children and community. God bless them!

### Interview with Amegnikpa Benois, church deacon.

#### What was your life like before this initiative?

We have been living in this community since 2006. I'm a teacher in a primary school. First of all we thank our donors and sponsors because they think about our real needs continually. Truly in this community, people used to drink water from the river without any treatment and this was very pitiable.

#### Please describe how the completed initiative will affect the lives of people in this community.

Previously, the church and project had access to borehole water which was treated before its utilisation but the children didn't have this opportunity in their houses. With these filters they have the necessary tools to treat the water before using it.

#### What will this initiative mean for the futures of children and youth in the community?

Beneficiaries are now going to use filtered water. They have changed behaviour as they now know how to protect water. Yes, it is one thing to have the filter and another to use it properly. Through home visits and sensitising, the family will deeply understand the importance of drinking and using safe water.

#### How would you describe the impact of this initiative to those who made it possible?

It is a great joy for us to let our sponsors know that we now have safe water and that using the filters is significantly reducing the diseases related to water. Lives are saved through their support and we bless the Lord for each of them.





## Interview with Compassion-registered child Apemekou Philomène for TG-903: Epanouis EEPT Child Development Centre.

### What was your life like before this initiative?

There are eight members in our family; I have three sisters and two brothers, my father's name is Gamayor and my mum is Mansan. I'm 12 years old and I'm in my first year of secondary school. I have lived here since I was born. Before this initiative, we used to buy water from a borehole. This water was not safe and we usually had stomach pains. Our parents gave us some drugs or took us to the health centre for treatment.

### How is your life different now that this initiative is complete?

Since this initiative was completed, we are using safe water for all our daily needs. Our sufferings have gone away. The health of the whole family is now stable.

### What does this initiative mean for your future?

Using filtered water brings a great transformation in our lives and assures us of hope for good future. The community now has safe water and children are the most blessed by this initiative. We are thanking our donors and sponsors for this initiative.

## Interview with caregiver Maman Klutse Akpénè from TG-806: Victoire Djogblakope Child Development Centre.

### What was your life like before this initiative?

This community is our native village and we have been here since we were young. Before this initiative, we used to drink rain water which was the most available source of water in the village. The water was unsafe and filled with worms.

### Please describe how the completed initiative will affect the lives of people in this community.

This initiative will allow the community to get safe water at all times. During the filter demonstration, we saw that many microorganisms are hidden in the unfiltered water and this made us very afraid. Because of what saw, we decided firmly to filter water before drinking or using it for washing or cooking.

### What changes you have seen in the lives of the children and their caregivers since this initiative?

We are very happy for this gift. Since this initiative, we don't like to drink unfiltered water and now even put filtered water in bottles for our children to take along to school. Children's habits at the project have also changed positively because of the education that was provided. They now have a filter for the children in every class.

## Interview with caregiver Maman Gabra Afi.

### How is your life different now that this initiative is complete?

My husband is Gabra Yawosè and we have five children. We have been here since 2009 and we have now seen a great difference. We do not have any more fear about catching water-related diseases.





How would you describe the impact of this initiative to those who made it possible?

I thank our donors and every person who made this initiative a reality. I want them to know that they saved thousands of lives through this initiative. God bless them.

**Interview with caregiver Dara Koffi.**

What was your life like before this initiative?

My wife is Bosro Ayawa, we have nine children and we have been here for fourteen years now. Our lives were exposed to parasites and worms before this initiative. We didn't know about safe water and all the time we thought the water we were using was the best. Our children and all of our relatives and neighbours didn't have another kind of water than this one that we were drinking and using in our daily activities.

How would you describe the impact of this initiative to those who made it possible?

The donors for this initiative are for us like saviours. They have done something great, not only for us, but also for the next generation. God bless them. The training we had also helped us a lot. We learnt how we can mount the filter. It was very good!



One beneficiary's father examining the kit after distribution





Caregivers learning how to assemble the Water of Life filters



Training on hygiene and how to assemble the Water of Life filters





Training on hygiene and how to assemble the Water of Life filters

Caregivers during the training





A facilitator demonstrating how to clean the filter



A caregiver receiving her Water of Life filter after the training





Project staff  
receiving Water of  
Life Filters



Caregivers  
and their  
children with  
their filters on  
their heads



# RESPOND

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Caregivers and their children proudly holding up their filters



Compassion-assisted children showing their Water of Life filters





One of the project staff members in the process of filling the bucket with water to be filtered

The Water of Life filters installed at one of the projects





## BUDGET

ITEM	GRANT REQUESTED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
Filters and buckets	£112,466	£112,466	-
Training and distribution	£7,699 (plus £5,343 local contribution)	£6,476	£1,223
Monitoring and evaluation	£3,536	£1,386	£2,150
Administration	£30,925	£30,925	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£154,626</b> (plus £5,343 local contribution)	<b>£151,253</b>	<b>£3,373</b>
Gain from favourable exchange rate			£1,486
Funds to be redirected towards a similar initiative			<b>£4,859</b>

The cost for purchasing a unit, transporting it to a family, and giving them training on proper use therefore equates to about £50 a filter. The £50 unit price also covers the time needed for Compassion staff to monitor and manage the initiative.

Thanks to our generous donors, Compassion UK was able to fund 1,000 filters, contributing a £50,000 towards the total cost of this initiative.

## THANK YOU

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for funding £30,000 of this RESPOND Initiative. Your donation has significantly contributed to enabling 3,442 Compassion-assisted children and their families to access safe drinking water in those 14 projects, and I hope you are encouraged by this report.

Compassion Togo is making every effort to ensure the impact of this initiative is felt throughout the community for many years. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07830 791 899 or at [MarkP@compassionuk.org](mailto:MarkP@compassionuk.org).

With very best wishes.

Mark Preston



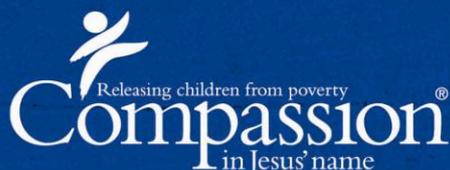
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**COMPASSION UK CHRISTIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

43 High Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8BB

**TEL:** 01932 836490 **FAX:** 01932 831275

**E-MAIL:** [info@compassionuk.org](mailto:info@compassionuk.org) **WWW:** [www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org)

Registered Charity No. 1077216, Registered in England No. 3719092

**COMPASSION IRELAND CHRISTIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

PO Box 87, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

**TEL:** 01 5133719 **FAX:** +44 1932 831275

**E-MAIL:** [info@compassion.ie](mailto:info@compassion.ie) **WWW:** [www.compassion.ie](http://www.compassion.ie)

Charity No. CHY 19426, Registered Company No. 493955