



CREDO - ACTION

FEMME-ENFANCE-DEVELOPPEMENT
"STATUT CONSULTATIF SPECIAL ECOSOC-ONU"

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2015



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VDC : Village Development Committee
ECOSOC : Economic and Social Council
FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
NFATPD : National Fund for Apprenticeship, Training and Professionals Development

SDG : Sustainable Development Goals
MDG : Millennium Development Goals
NGO : Non-Governmental Organization
UN : United Nations
ANRF : African Network for the Right to Food
ONREH : Organizations Network for Right, Education, Health,
WONFA : Women's Organizations Network of Francophone Africa
SRWMAP : Support to Rural Women for the Marketing of Agricultural Produces
WILDAF : Women in Law and Development in Africa

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

CREDO ACTION is a nonprofit and apolitical organisation which priority is to promote rural women, children and young girls. Its mission is to get women and the young girls in rural areas out of poverty, to bring them to defend their rights by building their capacities and creating conditions which ensure a better quality of life for them and their children and by extension for all the rural community. CREDO ACTION was created on April 16th, 1996 and was officially recognized by the Togolese State under the N°1012/MIS-SG-DAPSC-DSC, published in the official Government Publication N°1012/MIS-SG-DAPSC-DSC of September 11th, 1998. It obtained the status of ECOSOC/ United Nation in 2007. It status finally obtained NGO status in June 2015 under number 794 / MPDA / 2015.

Our Vision : «promoting women and children for a sustainable development»

Our Strategic Orientations: To support and follow up populations at the grassroots level particularly women to:

- increase the agricultural productivity;
- increase the incomes of the agricultural produces;
- Get access to loans
- undertake income-generating activities;
- manage health, education, training and human right problems ;
- provide for their children's needs and the ones of their communities ;
- take in charge the orphan young girl.

Our Areas of intervention : agriculture, health, education/training, food security and nutrition, Income-Generating Activities, children protection and rights, water and sanitation.

Target Groups: Rural women, orphan young girls, groups, cooperatives and communities at the grassroots level .

Our Approach of Intervention: It is based on the follow-up of organisational dynamics at the grassroots level . The main approach of intervention of CREDO ACTION follows a logic of research action-training. It is also participatory in so far as the points of view of the beneficiaries, the respect and equity between the social groups in their exchanges are constantly taken into account in decision makings.

Zones of Intervention: CREDO ACTION intervenes in the Maritime region in particular in the district of Vo, Zio, Lakes, Ave, Gulf and Commune of Lomé. It has planned nevertheless to extend its activities to cover all areas of Togo in the short and medium term.

Our Collaborations : We are affiliated to national and international organizations that share the same visions and objectives like CREDO ACTION. These are : Women's Organizations Network of Francophone Africa (WONFA); Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF-Togo); Organizations Network for Right, Education, Health, (ONLEH); Advisory and Economic Counsel (AEC).

225 rue ADABAWERE, 105 OTN Hanoukopé- LOME
BP: 61091, Tél: 22 34 92 97/ 22 52 97 50/ 90 09 37 07
E-mail: credoactionfed @yahoo.fr; asbenedicta@yahoo.fr
Site: www. credoactionfed.org

Foreword of the Executive Director of CREDO ACTION

Our Organization has just ended its activities of the year 2015 and with a real modesty we can affirm that CREED ACTION was up to its commitments. The year 2015 which ended was also full of activities in spite of the completion of the most significant projects: the Support for Rural Women in the Marketing of Agricultural produces; maternal health for all in rural areas; training in improved techniques of cassava processing (gari, atchèkè, etc) and basic accounting concept.

The various information and reports obtained are in themselves a satisfaction pattern of the life of the organization and this is an occasion to express our satisfaction over the results.

This year, CREDO ACTION has proved once again its dynamism, although the resources available are limited.

The listed activities were carried out through our determination. Our engagement has led to results that will continue over the years, especially at the beginning of this year 2016, where we have started a new year Strategic Plan 2016- 2020. This new programmatic vision enable us to achieve a series of projects to support farmers' organizations in the target districts.

To this end, CREDO ACTION will approach its partners, submitting to them its project proposals and we are confident that the implementation of some of these projects will start during this year. It is true that the needs expressed on the field are enormous and diverse and we, at no time, felt discouraged by the magnitude of the task. The essential is to carry out what we are up to, with full heart, as we have done since the creation of our organization.

For us, successful development projects are of course important, but not enough and CREDO ACTION will not only serve the communities but also enhance the endogenous potential. CREDO ACTION's motto has always been and remains the desire to satisfy the request from the beneficiaries by involving them in all stages of the implementation process. It is in this sense that our previous actions were of great collaboration with our beneficiaries (farmers' organizations, CVD, poor young girls, etc.) of whom we appreciate the efforts.

In this moment as we are definitely turning the page of 2015, we keep in mind the lessons have learned from this exercise and the needs expressed by communities in our various areas of intervention. For this purpose, we are going in for new projects in the areas of agriculture and food security; water and sanitation; education and vocational training.

We also have the urgent duty to persuade and attract other people for joining in as new members in order to fill the skills we need in the executive board.

Madame KOUDADJE-ASSAGBA Bénédicte

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CREDO ACTION warmly thanks all its sponsors, technical and financial partners, donors, companies and institutions that trusted it this year.

Our thanks go particularly to Togocellulaire, Fraternité Universelle , the parishioners of the Church of Holy Cross of Agbata and the Ministry of Social Action.

We do not forget the personalities: Ms. Marisol LANGLOIS of ATD Quart Monde, Mr. Peter ASSAGBA; Director of the Establishment BENPETER; Mrs. KLOUTSE, retired Professor of University. May this collaboration be for long, such is the wish of CREDO ACTION for the coming years.

Great congratulations to the collaborators and volunteers who work with zeal and determination for CREDO ACTION. They share the daily happy moments as well as the most difficult moments of the organization: a way for them, to support CREDO ACTION in its dynamic promotion of women farmers' organizations and their communities especially the orphan young girl.

INTRODUCTION

This report gives an account of the activities undertaken by CREDO ACTION during the year 2015. This annual exercise is within the framework of the implementation of the whole of the activities planned during the year and those which were carried out with the great satisfaction of our beneficiaries.

Let us recall that the objective of the report is not only to make a listing of the conducted actions but also to enumerate the significant changes in the life of the beneficiaries in order to better conduct the activities to be realized in the future.

The flagship projects having come to an end, the year 2015 was devoted for more focus on the follow-up of the activities according to project that the beneficiaries carry out by themselves. The Street Library project and socio-educative activities of the orphan young girls of the orphanage Sainte Thérèse of Agbata continued during the year.

However, the purpose of the initiatives taken here and there is to improve the living conditions of the beneficiaries and the way to face the problems of development. All the information in this document constitute a fundamental tool of decisions, control, relevance, effectiveness and impacts of the conducted actions.

1.1. Members and adhesions

At December 31, 2015, CREDO ACTION has got twenty-two (22) members who updated their membership contributions. Two (02) new members joined the organization this year.

1.2. Operation

During the year 2015 which came to an end, the Board of Directors held four (04) meetings that is one meeting per quarter. At its meeting of 12th February 2015, it adopted the program of activities and the budget of the year. The other meetings are **time** of periodic follow-ups and reporting of the activities. The street library project and the life of orphan young girls of the orphanage Sainte Thérèse of Agbata are controlled the more.

The ordinary General Assembly that brought together members and supporters of the NGO took place on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at the headquarters of the NGO based at Hanoukopé in Lomé. Members unanimously praised the efforts of the Board of Directors, the Executive Board, the collaborators and volunteers of CREDO ACTION for the implementation of different activities planned. They also used the opportunity to propose new strategies of research of technical and financial partners and of strengthening the links with the beneficiaries of the actions of the NGO.

Moreover, the organization has targeted the parents of children participating in the activities of the Street Library project. Now pupils' parents especially women are associated with this project and the organization is looking for sources of funding for their income-generating activities (IGA).

1.3. Partnerships developed

During this year, CREDO ACTION kept its links with its previous partners because it believes that whatever its efforts, the challenge of development can only be met if it works together with other organizations of the civil society, hence the participation in a corporation or an umbrella organization remains important. In this logic, it has conducted awareness and training activities on the topics of right for food and food security in collaboration with the African Network for the Right to Food (ANRF); the participation in workshops of capacity building on violence against women and girls.

Within the framework of its relationship with ATD Quart Monde, the Executive Director took part in the activities of the Global Day of Action against Poverty, celebrated on October 17, 2015 in Beauvais in France.

During that same year, CREDO ACTION presented its quadrennial report to ECOSOC-UN and received a satisfaction note for all its effort for development. To date its status of member still remains.

1.4. List of the members of the Board of Directors of CREDO ACTION

Name	Position	Address	
BANINGANTI-HOUNGUES Afi Yvonne	Chair person	90 13 67 27	
AYASSOR-AMAH S. MahiaThérèse	Secretary	90 96 45 96	
LAMPOH Amavi Jocelyne	Treasurer	90 94 86 79	
ATTIGNON Marie-Colette	First Advisor	90 96 26 22	
AZIANGUE Edoh	Second Advisor	99 22 03 40	

II. RECALL OF DIFFERENT AREAS OF INTERVENTION

For the year 2015, three (03) areas of interventions namely Agriculture and Food Security; area of Health and Education-Training were maintained as the focus areas of the organization according to the general assembly instructions but unfortunately new projects are not funded in this direction.

III. ACTIVITIES PER AREA OF INTERVENTION

3.1 Recall of projects in the area of agriculture and food security

Project 01:

« Support for rural women in the marketing of agricultural produces in the districts of Ave, Vo and Zio »

Starting year of the project: 2012

End of the project: 2015

Financial Partner: NEPAD /Spain Funds

Beneficiaries: members of associations and cooperatives around 750 people including 650 women

Zones of intervention: District of Avé (Ando Gbéroukondji, Ando Avédzié, Ando Gboloba, District of Zio (Kpomé Agomé, District of Vo (Vo Koutimé and Vo Kponou)

Comment: The project was completed in 2015. The beneficiaries continue to carry on the activities of marketing of the agricultural produces. The organization pays visits of follow-ups of the activities. On the whole, eight (08) visits of follow-ups were carried out at a rate of two (02) visits per quarter. Let us recall that the financial partner NEPAD/Spain Funds has already confirmed the end of the project by the delivery of a Certificate of project closure.

Project 02:

«Training project on improved techniques of cassava processing (gari, atchèkè, etc.) and on basic accounting concept. Management of income-generating activities in the district of Zio. »

Execution year: 2014

End of the project: 2015

Financial Partner: National Fund for Apprenticeship, Training and Professional Improvement (NFATPI)

Beneficiaries: 50 members of NEVAME association of Kpomé Agomé

Zone of intervention: The project covers the township of Kpomé and in the district of Zio.

Comment: The project ended up in 2015. The beneficiaries continue the cassava processing and its marketing activities. CREDO ACTION makes visits of follow-ups of the activities. On the whole, eight (08) visits of follow-ups were carried out at a rate of two (02) visits per quarter

3.2. Recall of the project in the area of health

Project 01:

«Maternal health for all in rural areas in the village of Ando Avédji »

Execution year: 2014

End of the project: 2015

Financial Partner: Fiduciary Funds for the second decade of native people in the world – UN

Beneficiaries: 350 persons (pregnant women, wet nurses and young girls)

Zone of intervention: village of Ando Avédji in the district of Avé

Comment: The project is completed in 2015. The beneficiary Women and young girls continue to facilitate the activities of the Clubs of women with the support of community health workers from the village. The themes that are used to animate the meetings are: family planning; good hygiene practices during pregnancy and after childbirth; preventing high-risk pregnancies; contraceptive practices; etc. CREDO ACTION makes follow-up visits activities. In total, twelve (12) follow-up visits were carried out that is one (01) visit per month.

Let's recall that the project was the subject of an external evaluation and a report of activities that are already submitted to financial partner. To this effect a satisfaction correspondence was addressed to CREDO ACTION.

3.3. Recall of the project in the area of Education & Training

Project 01: « Street Library»

Execution year: 2014

Current situation of the project: on going

Financial Partner: ATD Quart Monde

Beneficiaries: 250 people (children, the young, adults attending school or not)

Zone of intervention: commune of Lomé

Comment: In accordance with the objectives of the project which are:

Enable children, the young and adults attending school or not or that do not having access to classic library, to be in contact with books;

Reduce the incapacity of the children (attending school or not) to read, write and speak French;

Allow people to become familiar with the books for their socio-cultural development.

The project activities went on smoothly according to a schedule planned by supervisors during this year. An emphasis was also laid on recreational outings for children to learn other skills, other life skills, expertise and savoir vivre. And an excursion was organized in August 2015 to Aneho.

During this outing, the children also visited the house of Slave at Agbodrafo. On this occasion, the tourist guide talked to them about the life the slaves before they embarked to America.

❖ **Results of activities:**

CREDO-ACTION offered school kits to children in preparation for academic year 2015-2016.

The traditional end of year celebration was organized for the children.

A total of 42 sessions of reading and various games were organized during the year.

The teachings received by pupils have a significant impact on their school life. To this end the year-end results were conclusive with a success rate of 96%.



IV. ACTIVITIES AT THE ORPHANAGE SAINTE THERESE OF AGBATA

The socio-educational activities and initiatives in an income-generating activities (IGAs) such as manufacturing local soaps, liquid soaps, coconut vegetable oil, vegetable garden, the batik, Knitting, drawings, etc., continued in the orphanage. The number of girls in this Home, which is sixteen (16) is kept and the end – year result is 100%. For this year, the orphan girls again showed their determination to continue their school education as long as possible and wish become role models of women of tomorrow.



For the support accompaniment to the Orphanage, in addition to traditional partners, the organization has received various donations of food and non-food items from new partners such as TOGOCELLULAIRE, a mobile phone company, Universal Brotherhood, the parishioners of the church of Sainte Croix of Agbata and the Ministry of Social Action. The leaders of these organizations have promised to henceforth support the orphanage in the care taking of these poor young girls.

Two (2) young German women did their internship in the orphanage during this year. During their visit, they have transmitted some socio-educational knowledge to the girls in the orphanage.

V. CAPITALIZATIONS, CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The capacity building and exchange of experiences are part of the renewal of practices and methods of management of an organization and of support to beneficiaries of development actions. For this purpose, CREDO ACTION is more engaged in this exercise

For this year, the secretary-cashier followed a capacity building training in administration management and accounting in an organization at AJEDI NGO.

Two agents, the communication officer and the Secretary-cashier took part in capacity building sessions on gender and inclusive management of the project cycle organized by APROFEHTO in March 2015. The workshop was funded by CBM.

Within the framework of its partnerships, the organization participated in the online discussion organized by UN-WOMEN on the end of the MDGs and the targets to reach in rural areas according to the SDOs.

The theme of SDOs was also addressed in the framework of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of which CREDO ACTION is a member.

For the 15-day campaign, CREDO ACTION organized in collaboration with ONREH, a series of awareness campaigns on violence against girls and gender in some secondary schools in the Maritime region

CREDO ACTION is a member of ANRF. With this title, it took part in the ownership workshop on the right to food in Togo. This capacity building session was organized in June 2015 by FAO at SANCTA MARIA hotel in Lomé. After the training of Lomé, some umbrella organizations like ANRF were selected by FAO to carry out thematic information relay activities developed in Lomé with the populations in the Togo administrative centers

VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES

In order to bring joy to disadvantaged children from the village of Agbata, CREDO ACTION distributed parcels to over two hundred and twenty (220) children in this end of year the 2015 as part of ‘Operation Christmas Children’. Children participating in the ‘street library’ activities and the young girls of the orphanage have also benefited from these thanksgivings from the organization. The organization has not also forgotten the Ivorian refugees who live in Avépozo refugees’ camp. So it donated food and non-food items to them.



One of the events rich in color during the year is the celebration of the Global Day of Action against Poverty on October 17th which coincided with the first anniversary of the "Street Library." For this occasion, the Executive Director was specially invited to Beauvais, France, to honor CREDO ACTION in this world celebration.



Concerning the infrastructure, the organization begins to have some problems as to how to properly accommodate the orphan girls within the orphanage where the request is increasing every year. In reality, the premises where the girls are accommodated are becoming increasingly cramped and now it is imperative to enlarge the reception rooms including rental expense of the supervisory staff. Thus, under the leadership of the Board and Executive Director, the organization undertook the construction of a new building of four dormitories with a capacity of eight (08) bunk beds; a room of instructors; a shop and an administrative block made of three offices.



VII. Difficulties encountered

The organization has not encountered major difficulties which could prevent it in his operation or in the implementation of its activities on the field. We recognize that some of the members lack certain skills and this will be quickly remedied by new members with whom we are in negotiations. The recurring problem that is almost global in these recent years remains the financial problem. Today, it is clear that the project funding are rare while the needs are increasing on the field.

VIII. Prospects

Regarding the outlook, CREDO ACTION made a diagnosis in this end year and recommends the drafting a new strategy paper for its actions. This paper describes the new vision and activities to be undertaken for five (05) years. In this context, the organization intends to achieve several innovative projects which implementation requires before all:

- The search for new partners for public and private funding of the projects;
- The expansion of the membership base and the search for other skills necessary for the operation of the organization;
- The Strengthening of the link with the communities of these projects. Indeed these beneficiaries are not just consumers of the services we propose, but rather they constitute the key players in the construction and ownership of the actions.

Conclusion

In the light of what preceded, we could say that the year 2015 was also a good year although the organization encountered some organizational and financial difficulties. These constraints that may affect the life of the organization, could be somehow overcome by the will and mobilization of the members. The links of friendship that exist amount the different target groups were strengthened especially with new partners who supported CREDO ACTION in the care taking of girls of the orphanage during this year.

However, if one admits that CREDO ACTION develops and strengthens its position in rural communities, we must also admit that many of the complaints remain unfulfilled. And the year 2016 will undoubtedly be one year, in which the organization will try to do better.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ATTESTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2015