



CREDO - ACTION
WOMAN-CHILDHOOD-DEVELOPMENT
"SPECIAL ECOSOC-UNO CONSULTATIVE STATUS"

2016 YEARLY ACTIVITY REPORT



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INITIALS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

VCD: Village Development Committee

ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FNAFPP: National Fund for Professional Learning, Training, and Improving

[In French Fonds National d'Apprentissage, Formation et de Perfectionnement Professionnels)]

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

MDG: Millennium Development Goals

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

UNO: United Nations Organization

RAPDA: African Network for the Right to Food [In French: Réseau Africain pour le Droit à l'Alimentation]

RODESEE: Network of Organizations for Rights, Education and Health [In French: Réseau des Organisations pour le Droit, l'Education et la Santé]

ROFAF: Network of Women's Organizations of French-speaking Africa

[In French Réseau des Organisations des Femmes de l'Afrique Francophone]

WILDAF: Women in Law and Development in Africa

FNFI: National Fund for Inclusive Finance [In French: Fond National de la Finance Inclusive]

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

CREDO-ACTION is a non-profit making and non-political organization, which prioritizes promoting rural women, children and young girls. Its mission is to help rural women and young girls get out of poverty, bring them to stand up for their rights whilst building their capacities and creating an environment that ensures them a better quality of life, to their children and indirectly to the overall rural community. CREDO-ACTION is created on April 16, 1196 and is officially recognized by the Togolese State under No. 1012/MIS-SG-DAPSC, published in the Official Journal No. 1012 / MIS-SG-DAPSC-DSC of September 11, 1998. It was granted ECOSOC / United Nations status in 2007. It was finally granted NGO status in June 2015 under the number 794 / MPDA / 2015.

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

Our Strategic Orientations: Support and accompany grass-roots populations notably women in:

- increasing agricultural productivity;
- increasing the yields from agricultural products;
- accessing to credit;
- undertaking income-generating activities;
- managing health, education, training and human rights issues;
- providing for the needs of their children and their communities;
- taking care of the orphan girl.

Our Fields of Intervention: agriculture and food security, health, education / training, nutrition, Income Generating Activities, children's protection and rights, equity / gender, water and sanitation.

Target Groups: Rural women, orphan girls, groups, cooperatives and grassroots communities.

Our Intervention Approach: It is based on accompanying the organizational dynamics basically. CREDO ACTION's principal approach to intervention lies within the framework of an action-training-research process. It is also participatory inasmuch as the standpoints of the beneficiaries, the respect and the fairness between the social categories in the exchanges are constantly taken into account in the decision-making.

Zones of intervention: CREDO ACTION intervenes in the Maritime region, notably in the Avé, Lacs, Vo, Zio, Gulf Prefectures and Lomé-District. However, it intends to extend its activities throughout Togo in the short and medium term.

Our Collaborations: We are affiliated with national and international organizations that share the same visions and objectives as CREDO ACTION. They are: *Network of Women's Organizations of French-speaking Africa [In French ROFAF: Réseau des Organisations des Femmes de l'Afrique Francophone]; Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF-Togo); Network of Organizations for Rights, Education and Health [In French RODESEE: Réseau des Organisations pour le Droit, l'Education et la Santé]; Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).*

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Word of the Executive Director of CREDO ACTION

The year 2016 has just finished for CREDO ACTION NGO with its various activities and time has come for appraisal. During this year CREDO ACTION committed itself more to working alongside the poor populations. In a world that is constantly changing, we can no longer let the communities predominantly the rural ones remain in the meanders of poverty. In this sense, many programs / projects are initiated in order to improve the living and working conditions of populations, in particular women and above all children. The SDGs are an illustration of this policy, but the conditions in which the organizations of civil society especially the African ones are evolving do not allow them to truly accompany this vision, for want of financial means.

It is in this context that CREDO ACTION is committed to working firstly for the advancement of women and its empowerment and secondly for the education of children indirectly of girls.

The efforts of the Togolese authorities in these various fields are laudable but they are still insufficient and need to be accompanied by the Organizations of Civil Society in order to express into facts the new national policy initiated by the government since 2012, contained in the document of Accelerated Growth Strategy and of Employment Promotion (SCAPE in FRENCH).

As Executive Director, I am pleased with the work of the Board of Directors (B.D.), the Executive Committee, people of willingness and the adhering members who have mobilized themselves so that the objectives of CREDO ACTION established for 2016 are reached.

The activities included were carried out, thanks to the determination of each other. Their investment has brought about results that will continue over the years, especially in early 2017, when we begin a new five-year 2017-2020 strategic plan. This new programmatic vision will enable us to do a series of projects to support organizations of Peasants, women and children in the target prefectures.

To this effect, CREDO ACTION will approach its partners by submitting 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 remain enormous and diversified and we have never felt discouraged by the scale of the task. The important thing is to realize what we could, the heartily, as we had done since the creation of our organization.

Moreover, I greatly hope that the resolve of everyone that has enabled CREDO ACTION during the past year to concretize and continue its activities, especially the **Street Library** project, be redoubled so that women and children can to get the best out of our support and accompaniment.

Now that we are entering a new year, we keep in mind the lessons learned over the past year and the needs expressed by the communities in our various zones of intervention. In this context, we will intensify our research of financing for the satisfaction of these. Fields such as agriculture, education / training, microcredit and access to basic socio-community infrastructure (health, water and sanitation, etc.) must be awarded.

We cannot make this annual appraisal of our activities without expressing our gratitude to our national and international partners. All the Board of Directors (B.D.) of CREDO ACTION and the Executive Committee (BE) thank you and wish that our collaborations may continue.

KOUDADJE Dopé P. Benedicta, spouse of ASSAGBA

THANKS

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

Our thanks go particularly to the Universal Brotherhood, the Parishioners of the Holy Cross Church of Agbata and the Ministry of Social Action.

We do not forget the personalities: Mrs LANGLOIS Marisol of ATD Fourth World, Mr. ASSAGBA Peter, Director of BENPETER Firm, Mrs KLOUTSE, Retired University Teacher. May this collaboration be sustained over the long term. This is the wish of CREDO ACTION for the coming years.

Great congratulations to the collaborators and volunteers who officiate with zeal and determination in CREDO ACTION. They share in daily life the 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 above all the orphan girl.

INTRODUCTION

This report gives an account of the activities conducted by CREDO ACTION during the 2016 year. This annual exercise takes place in the context of the implementation of all the activities planned during the year and those carried out to the great satisfaction of our beneficiaries.

Let us remind that the aim of the report is not simply to list the actions conducted but also to list the significant changes that have occurred in the lives of the beneficiaries in order to better guide the activities to be carried out in the future.

Since the leading projects have come to an end since 2015, the 2016 year has been more accentuated once again on the follow-up of the post-project activities that the beneficiaries execute themselves: the training and the social. The Street Library project and the socio-educational activities of the orphaned girls of the “Foyer Sainte Thérèse” Home in Agbata were continued during the year.

However, the initiatives taken here and there are intended to bring about improvements in the lives of the beneficiary populations and ways of approaching development problems. All the information contained in this document constitute a fundamental tool for decisions, control, relevance, effectiveness and impacts of the actions carried out.

I. COMMUNITY LIFE

1.1. Members and membership

As of December 31, 2016, CREDO ACTION has twenty-four (24) members that are up-to-date in their dues. Two (02) new members joined this year.

1.2. Functioning

During the year 2016 which ended, the Board of Directors held four (4) meetings, that is to say one meeting per quarter. At its meeting on February 6, 2016, it adopted the program of activities and the provisional budget for the year. The other meetings are times of periodic monitoring and reporting of activities. The street library project and the life of the orphan girls of the Sainte Thérèse Home [in French Foyer Sainte Thérèse] of Agbata that go on are followed most.

At the last meeting of the year that brought together the members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee at the seat of the NGO located at Hanoukopé in Lomé. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors praised the efforts of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, CREDO ACTION’s collaborators and volunteers in the execution of

the various activities planned. She also seized the opportunity to propose new strategies for finding financial and technical partners and strengthening links with beneficiaries of the NGO's actions.

In addition, the NGO that in 2015 targeted the parents of children participating in the activities of the Street Library project has finally found a source of funding for their income-generating activities (AGR in French).

1.3. Partnerships developed

During this year, CREDO ACTION has kept its links with its previous partners because it is convinced that, whatever its efforts may be, the challenge of development will be raised only with other civil society organizations. Thus, participating in a corporation or firm remains important.

To this end, it has carried out awareness-raising and training activities on the right to food and food security in collaboration with the African Network for the Right to Food [in French (RAPDA) Réseau Africain pour le Droit à l'Alimentation] ; participation in capacity-building workshops on violence against women and girls and the care taking of them .

As part of its relationship with ATD Fourth World [in French ATD Quart Monde], CREDO ACTION succeeded in organizing the World Day of Fighting Poverty, celebrated on October 17, 2016 and the two years of the Street Library Project.

It should be remembered that to date ECOSOC-UNO membership is still maintained

1.4. Chart of CREDO ACTION's Executive Committee's members

Surname and First names	Position	Contact
BANINGANTI-HOUNGUES Afi Yvonne	Chairperson	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 Counsellor	90 96 26 22
AZIANGUE Edoh	Second Counsellor	99 22 03 40

II. REMINDER OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

For the year 2016, the two (02) axes of intervention, namely Agriculture and Food Security and Education-Training axis, are maintained as the fields of intervention of the organization this year, but unfortunately new projects in this sense are not financed.

III. ACTIVITIES PER AXIS OF INTERVENTION

3.1. Reminder of the Project under the Education-Training Axis

«Street Library » (ST)

Comment: Started since 2014 this activity of which the financial partner is the movement ATD Fourth World [in French ATD Quart Monde] and which celebrated its 2 years of existence on October 17, 2016 through organizing a round table on the theme « **Sharing our cultures, Growing our links**», with the presence of Head of the Cultural Affairs department of Lomé Town Council as guest of honour. The Street Library activity continues to liven up in favour of more than 310 people (children, young people, school and out-of-school adults) in Lomé Town Council in accordance with the Objectives assigned to the project, namely:

- To enable children, young people and adults in school or out-of-school who do not have access to the classical library to be in contact with books;
- Reduce the inability of children (enrolled in school and those out of school) to read, write and speak French, English or Arabic.
- To enable the population to familiarize themselves with books for their sociocultural blossoming.



The activities of the project took place smoothly according to a schedule planned by the supervisors during this year. Emphasis was also placed on the children's recreational outings in order to acquire other knowledge, other soft skills, know-hows and good manners.

Thus a sightseeing trip was organized in August 2016 on the site of the New Phosphate Company of Togo [in French SNPT (Société Nouvelle de Phosphate of Togo)]. During this trip, children were able to acquire knowledge about the treatment of phosphate from its raw state to its transformation and commercialization. They were also entitled to a small recreational party on the beach located just outside. In total 32 reading and play sessions were organized during the year. Let us note that lessons received by schoolchildren have a significant impact on their school life. To this end, the end-of-year results were once again conclusive with a success rate of 97.2%.



3.2. Social Actions

CREDO ACTION, in its social actions, distributed the packages of toys, pens, notebooks, T-shirts, sweets, etc ... to the top five of each class of public primary school (A , B and C) of Séwatsrikopé in the prefecture of the Lakes. It also offered school kits to more than 300 children of the Lomé street library and to the first top 5 students of the Lanzo public primary school, as a prelude to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. These magnanimous actions enable the Association to help children whose parents lack the wherewithal to provide them with these things.



The traditional end-of-year celebration was held on December 24, 2016. On this occasion, CREDO ACTION donated food to more than 500 destitute and orphaned children in the districts of the city of Lomé and Agbata. This activity took place at the Children Home Sainte Thérèse [in French Foyer de l'Enfance Sainte Thérèse] in a festive atmosphere, of joy and cheerfulness.



IV. CAPITALIZATIONS, CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORK ACTIVITIES

CREDO ACTION is a member of RAPDA. In this capacity, it participated in the appropriation workshop on the right to food in Togo. This capacity-building session was organized in Lomé; It enabled women that came from different localities in Togo to break out of their ignoring their right to adequate feeding.

It also participated still as a member of RAPDA in the 2016 World Food Day celebrated at Notse in partnership with BORNEfonden and whose theme is: **(Climate changes, food and agriculture likewise) followed by the activity of awareness-raising and information on the right to adequate feeding in the presence of the local authorities of the area.**



With a view to helping women of the Assilassimé group to have their financial autonomy, CREDO ACTION in partnership with PADES micro-finance and the Ministry of Grassroots Development, allowed to grant low-rate credits to the latter. This credit, known as FNFI, has enabled many women to slightly emerge from their extreme poverty to an improved life. These magnanimous actions allow the Association to help women who do not have the necessary means to care for their children.

Considering what is aforesaid, it can be said that 2016 was a satisfactory year, even if the Organization has encountered some difficulties of financial and organizational nature. These constraints could, indeed, have side-effects on the Organization's life; however the Organization's members managed to get over them through goodwill and mobilization. CREDO ACTION will develop and build its capacity within rural communities and within the Orphanage « Children Home Sainte Thérèse » [in French « Foyer de l'Enfance Sainte Thérèse d'Agbata »] in 2017.

V. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Many other things could have been carried out but we encountered heavy financial difficulties. Such straits slowed many of our activities and even refrain many other ones of them to come to fruition.

APPENDIX

CERTIFICATION REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2016 YEAR