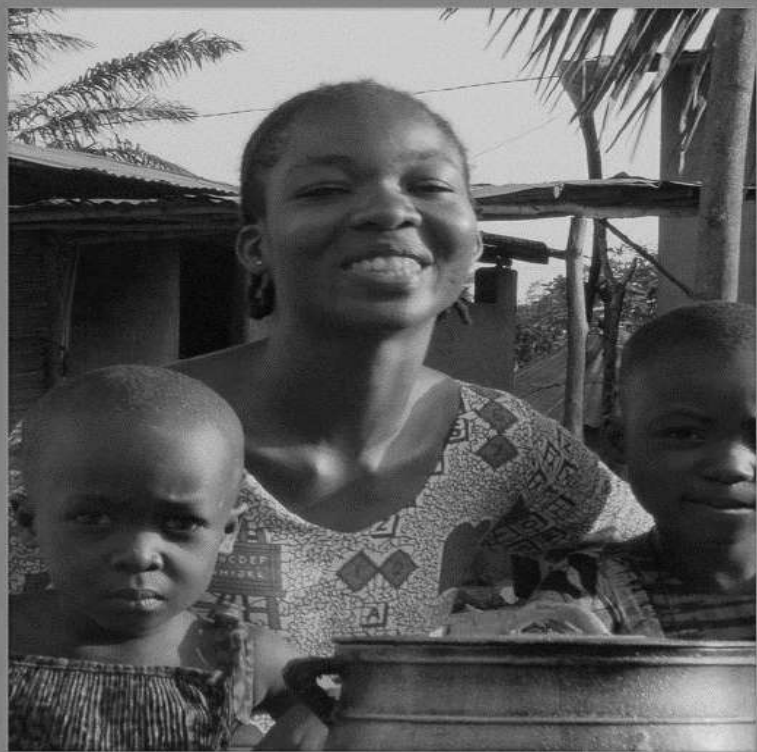


# FREEDOM



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1 The **FREEDOM PROGRAMME**

is a complement to our holistic project of 300,000 efficient cookstoves to help **THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**, mitigate **CLIMATE CHANGE** and **IMPROVE HEALTH**.

### 2 It will give an opportunity to **100 female students**

to work in the distribution of cookstoves, allowing them to pay for University without having to sell themselves.

### 3 This programme will give the **FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

to women and improve their **HEALTH** by avoiding the risk of sexually transmittable diseases and abortion. The Institute of Medicine of the University of Lomé will be monitoring the benefits.

### 4 The programme aims to raise at least **€ 180.000 /year**

from 2024 to 2028.



REPUBLIC OF TOGO

In 2022 Togo ranked **127** out of 144 countries on the Social Development Goals (SDG) Gender Index.



## BEING A WOMAN IN TOGO ....

Womens' participation in education in Togo drops from 72% in primary schools to only 14% in secondary education.

One of the reasons for this extremely high decrease is due to early pregnancies, lack of sex education, absence of family planning.

25% of women are married under the age of 18.

Families concentrate their scarce resources on the education of the elder son only.

The access to University and the costs of living in the city are very expensive and the girls desiring to study MUST PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES.

Many female students are turning to prostitution to support themselves at University.

Receiving something in exchange for sex is quite common among sexually active, unmarried female adolescents in Togo.



In Togo only

**14%**

of women go to Secondary school



## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV are a public health challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially for Female Sex Workers (FSW) who are particularly vulnerable.

Sex “workers” and their clients are high risk groups, especially as condom use is inconsistent. This also causes many unwanted pregnancies.

Abortion is legal in Togo only when the pregnancy is the consequence of rape or an incestuous relationship or when the continuation of the pregnancy endangers the life and health of the pregnant woman or when there is a high probability that the foetus will have a particularly serious condition.

Therefore there is a large number of illegal abortions, unsafe because of its clandestine nature and also the complications post-abortion which are not performed by medical staff.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among female sex workers in Togo percentage

**42,7%**

Every year, an estimated

**595**

women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, derived mostly by HPV.

**417**

of these women die of the disease.

## WORKING PART TIME DISTRIBUTING IMPROVED COOKSTOVES

3 BILLION

people still cook with dangerous cookstoves. Wood-based cooking is still preferred to alternatives, both in rural and urban areas.

4 MILLION

people die every year due to exposure to indoor air pollution

16,7 MILLION

girls out of school in Sub-Saharan Africa doing domestic chores. Efficient cookstoves allow more time to study and require less time to collect wood

The **FREEDOM** programme supports the **TOGO COOKSTOVES** project by VC4Climate distributing 300.000 improved cookstoves over 5 years.

The project

- will protect 200,000 ha of local forest
- increase life expectancy by 2 year
- boost local income of 300,000 families by \$1,500 each over the period
- and boost biodiversity



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The **TOGO COOKSTOVES** project is producing and distributing 300,000 improved cookstoves over 5 years

Two types of locally made stoves (asuto and himalayan) are being distributed. The use of locally made stoves offer vast socioeconomic advantages over projects which import stoves.

The project provides technical and marketing training to local potters and local welders, as well as offering environmental education to the community

Evidence shows that these improved stoves reduce fuel consumption by around 35-40% compared to traditional stoves. The project targets households and artisans in the Plateaux, Maritime and Centrale regions of Togo, which comprises about two-thirds of Togo's total population.

## The FREEDOM programme for 2024

We will work in collaboration with the Department of Medicine of the University of Lomé to monitor the positive impact on the health of the women involved in the project.

We shall involve 100 girls during the first year of the programme by offering them a part time job which can be combined with the study.

They will also be helping other women to understand the importance of using the most efficient COOKSTOVES for their health and that of their children.

The cost of the programme for one year involves the investment of €150 /month for each girl

**100 jobs x €150/month = €15,000/month**  
**€15,000/month x 12 months = €180,000/year**

The monitoring of the University of Lomé will be shared with the donors.

The **FREEDOM** programme  
will give work to

**100**

young women in the distribution cookstoves and sensibilization of the advantages of using them and will offer these women the

**FREEDOM**

to choose their life, to pay for their studies without the need to sell themselves

With **€150 / month**  
we can help change one life.





**FREEDOM**



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*Thank you*