



Dear ICPSD Community,

The global impact of COVID-19 continues to grow. Togo is beginning to see a rise in COVID-19 related cases. As of Sunday, March 29, there were 30 confirmed cases, 22 suspected cases, 7 recovered cases, and one COVID-19 related death in Togo.

The Togolese government has taken some drastic measures to curtail the spread of the virus in the country. On March 20, the government closed all the land borders, suspended air traffic and put Lomé, Tsévié, Kpalimé and Sokodé under total lockdown. All public, private, and denominational primary, secondary and university schools have been shut down for a period of three weeks. All places of worship, churches and mosques have been ordered closed for at least a month. Mass cultural activities, sporting activities, and nightclubs are suspended until further notice. In addition to these measures, the government has made arrangements to transfer all the positive and suspected cases of Covid-19 to two of the main public hospitals in the capital city of Lomé.

ICPSD has also suspended office hours in Notsé and cancelled all youth activities for the time being. In an effort to keep people safe and support social distancing, the women of Lolonu will not gather to attend to the seedlings at the nursery for the time being. Rather Django, the nursery caretaker, will take on

continue to monitor the situation in Togo and adjust accordingly.

Supporting Families During COVID-19

The difficult reality is that many Togolese people don't have the means to survive a long shutdown. Most households do not have the income required to stock up on supplies. There is not the access to privileges many of us enjoy in the states, such as curbside pickup of groceries or Amazon delivery.

Consequently, people are faced with a difficult choice: stay at home and die of hunger or continue to go out to find food and risk contamination and spread of Covid-19.

There are no easy solutions in times like these. But ICPSD is committed to doing what we can to support people in Togo. For the time being, we have adjusted our goals with a focus on supporting youth and their families during COVID-19.

Strategy One

Food security (and rising food prices) is a significant concern in Togo. For every \$100 we raise, we can provide 11-12 students and their family basic food staples for two weeks time. This will allow them to better socially distance and stay at home by reducing the amount of times their family's must go out for food.

Strategy Two

In the United States, we are lucky to have technology in many households. This is not the case in Togo. However, nearly all of the student participants in our youth group have cell phones and we can contact them via WhatsApp. We will be working with their local English instructor to develop curriculum material so they can continue their English and personal financial education via documents

Support Families in Togo

We want to thank you all for your support and for making it possible for us to continue to serve and support communities in Togo.



ICPSD Youth Community Development Program participants sing and dance to a song of their making. The song celebrates their friendship and professes their commitment to the program.

The ICPSD team and board are continuously working to prioritize the health of our employees and program participants while considering ways in which ICPSD can continue to support communities in Togo. Please do not hesitate to

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