



**Global
Partnership**
for Effective Development
Co-operation

Country brief

Togo

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A. Introduction and Purpose of the Brief

In the framework of the Global Partnership for Development, Togo is continuing its efforts in the implementation of structural reforms, with the support of its development partners. This report provides a brief review of the progress made by Togo after the High-Level Partnership Forum in Busan, presenting the challenges and perspectives in material development partnership. It will also allow sharing the Togolese experience with other countries, in line with the vision of the Global Partnership.

B. Country Context

Since the high-level meeting in Busan, Togo's development efforts have benefitted of a calmer and more stable social and political environment, result of the historical political agreement between the traditional political parties which allowed the opposition party to enter the Government. This agreement favored the organization of successful parliamentary elections in 2013, leading to the formation of a multicolored parliament in which six parties are represented. The preparations for the presidential elections in March 2015 provide again the scope for a debate on the need for constitutional and institutional reforms, as a requirement before going towards the elections.

On the social and economic point of view, the cost of living in Togo has risen, in association with the increasing rate of unemployment, particularly within the young populations; this has caused further inequalities and an increasing poverty level, affecting more than 55% of the population in 2011. However, the consolidation of economic and financial achievements resulted in a steady improvement in economic growth from 3.7 % in 2010 to 5.6% in 2012.

Togo continues to strengthen its business climate, recording an improvement in the WB Doing Business rankings; in 2014 it ranks 157/185(159 in 2013), with most relevant reforms in terms of dealing with constructions permits and enforcing contracts.

With the implementation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy of second generation, the SCAPE (*Strategie de Croissance Accelerée et Promotion d'Emploi 2013-2017*) and the initiatives undertaken by the government to favor the youth, the most vulnerable populations and the private sector, the future of Togolese starts to look brighter.

C. Development cooperation and partnership framework

Since the Roundtable of Togo Development partners, held in Brussels in 2008, the flow of aid received by Togo has been growing intensively. However, in 2013 this flow started to decline, due to the international crisis and reduction of ODA in most countries.

Aid monitoring and evaluation has improved thanks to the support of development partners, who helped to develop and make accessible the aid management system: the PGA (*Plateforme de Gestion de l'aide*), accessible online since November 2013 via the link <http://www.pgatogo.tg>. This database, recording aid flows, allowed also to produce the annual reports on development aid (RAPD).

Development cooperation efforts have also contributed to make Togo return on the international scene, participating in several international meetings on effective development and partnerships.

Togo has been elected as non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations in 2011, and member of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) for three years, starting in 2014.

Togo is also a member of the g7+, the group of 20 fragile countries formed in 2012 with the aim to improve development efforts in countries affected by a crisis; as part of its active engagement in

this group, Togo has hosted the third g7+ Ministerial Meeting on 29 and 30 May 2014, and it looks into a further effort towards the implementation of the New Deal.

D. Progress in Effective Development Cooperation

Organization: Aid coordination and partnership mobilization have been managed for long by a dedicated structure at the Ministry of Planning, organized at division level. With the recent organizational reforms, this important function has been now placed at the level of Directorate General, at the MPDAT.

Ownership: After the implementation of the first generation of the poverty reduction strategy in 2011, a new second generation Strategy has been adopted in 2013, the SCAPE (Accelerated Growth Strategy and Promotion of Employment aiming to accelerate growth and promote employment. It is the result of a participatory process and provides a roadmap to the Government, development partners, private sector, civil society and labor organizations, identifying the strategic orientations of the country as well as the gaps to achieve its development objectives. The SCAPE, covering the period 2013-2017, outlines a vision for sustainable human development in the medium term in Togo, defining a progressive path towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

A longer term development plan is also being finalized in Togo, with the elaboration of the Vision Togo 2030 which aims to lead the country from a context of fragility to one of emergence.

RESULTS:

With the resumption of cooperation in 2008 and the development of new types of partnerships for development, Togo was able to implement development programs that resulted in a reduction of poverty from 61% to 58% in 2008 to 2011, improving the lives of Togolese in several aspects.

At the social level:

- A national program for volunteering is implemented since 2011 to enable graduates to get a first experience in order to be competitive in the labor market. The program aims to provide them with job placements in public and private companies for a period of two years, one time renewable. This program has already helped a large number of young people to get long term and permanent contracts. Togo has been congratulated by the United Nations for this successful model.
- The introduction of the universal health insurance is ongoing; it is already effective since two years for public administration staff and it will be extended to all Togolese in the medium term.
- A National Fund for Inclusive Finance (FNFI) has been made operational to allow vulnerable people, normally excluded from the banking system, to easier access to credit.

At the institutional level:

- A general directorate for resource mobilization is to be established at the Ministry of Planning as the official structure responsible for the national coordination of development assistance inflows. The structure will use the aid management platform (PGA) which provides information on all the activities and resources provided by the different donors at national level. This database will facilitate monitoring and evaluation efforts as well as the elaboration of annual reports on development assistance funds.

- Togo participates in UN and regional peacekeeping missions of peace, by sending Togolese troops on battlefields.
- With the support of partners, the government is working with civil society in the extension and implementation of the New Deal.

Key reforms include also:

- Reforms to modernize the justice system and the prison administration to a fair trial ;
- Reforms in the Ministry of Economy and Finance for a better management of public finances.

In order to boost development efforts, the authorities have undertaken new measures to diversify financing sources, in particular by setting up:

- The Presidential Investment Council, which is an advisory body composed of eminent personalities to mobilize resources in the private sector;
- Togo Invest Corporation, a holding company that will make investments in companies and also take share of assets of different companies to help the government meet its own development goals.
- The One Stop Shop for Foreign Trade (GUCE), which is a fundamental tool in the development of foreign trade and improving economic growth. This platform allows faster transactions but also lower costs and the reduction of bottlenecks, with an overall positive effect on state revenues.

Transparency:

To address the need for transparency and mutual accountability, the Togolese government is committed to the fight against corruption, fraud and tax evasion by the operationalization of the Togolese revenue authority (OTR) for better domestic resource mobilization; the operationalization of the National Directorate of Public Procurement (DNCMP) and the Public Procurement Regulatory authority (AGP), which allows the publication of the results of tender evaluations.

As per external resources, the aid management platform allows to trace and publish the resources allocated by each partner in the country.

E. Development Effectiveness Agenda

CHALLENGES:

- Finalize the process of elaboration of the Togo Vision 2030;
- Establish a dialogue between stakeholders and take into account government objectives in terms of development aid (predictability, management arrangements, increased mobilization...) as well as partner's priorities (expenditure efficiency, fight against corruption, system efficiency national...);
- Develop public -private partnerships;
- Continue the reforms and create an environment favorable for civil society;
- Interfacing to the management platform using (PGA) and the system of public financial management (SYGFIP);

- Strengthen the ownership of the New Deal process by all the stakeholders at the national level.

F. Conclusions and recommendations

The global partnership for development provides Togo with a framework for exchange of good practices on effective partnerships. The capitalization of experiences to this effect has led to the formulation of public policies, the implementation of which will help improving the welfare of the Togolese people. Much remains to be done and further efforts are needed, in particular:

National level:

- Exchange of good practices by different countries on the establishment of an open, sincere and objective dialogue between national actors;
- The consideration of gender in development activities;
- The teams and actors dedicated to partnership mobilization and development are to be well equipped and their capacities reinforced.

International level:

- Organize and hold systematic activities on the global partnership for development;
- Establish a binding mechanism for the implementation of international commitments.