



The Friendly Haven : 2023 Annual report



Summary

Activities carried out in Togo:

1. Social Safety Nets
2. Education
3. Food Security
4. Visit and Communication about Non-Violence
5. Christmas Party
6. Changes in the Field Team
7. Upcoming Projects

Additional Activities

1. Congo
2. Ukraine

Conclusion

Financial Report

Who Are We ?

The main objectives of The Friendly Haven can be summarized through six important objectives :

1. **Support children in vulnerable situations, especially orphans and children victims of all kinds of abuse,**
2. **Offer sponsorship programs to support children in difficulty,**
3. **Build, create, and open care centers for children in difficulty and orphans,**
4. **Promote, defend, and practice the values of Non-violence and Peace, especially towards children,**
5. **Fight against inequalities and poverty, which are sources of violence in all countries of the world,**
6. **Promote Human Rights**

We have been mainly active in Togo and the Democratic Republic of Congo since our creation in 2008, that is 16 years ago. However, we also act occasionally in conflict zones, such as in Syria or Ukraine.

In Togo, The Friendly Haven built and founded the « House of Hope orphanage », located in the center of Togo at 161km from the capital : Lomé. It was first opened in 2013. It housed about thirty orphaned children and we had also added an agro-pastoral program aimed at its self-sufficiency and sustainability. It was nominated as the most efficient in the Plateaux region and ranked among the top five in Togo, according to the study report by the ENEIS research firm commissioned by the Ministry of Social Action and UNICEF (April 2016). In 2017, the Hope Foster Home was temporarily closed due to corrupt practices of our former local partner against whom we had to file a complaint.

Thereafter, we continued to support the children of the center, currently numbering twenty-five, including seven girls and eighteen boys, placed in local foster families. The Friendly Haven supports the foster families, including the siblings of the main beneficiaries and the children living closed to our NGO's headquarters in Atakpamé, totaling more than 100 people. Despite the temporary closure of the orphanage, we never lost hope. Indeed, we succeeded in our lawsuit against our local partner a little over a year ago. **Awaiting more substantial funds for the renovation of the orphanage – and we have a lead that we are excited to tell you more about in this report- the Friendly Haven continues its ardent work with children in foster families.**

A tribute to Françoise VAPPEREAU

In July 2023, we lost our precious treasurer and representative of the sponsors, Mrs. Françoise Vappereau. She went on a mission in 2013 and had impressed everyone with her warmth and kindness. Thanks to her, so many sponsors connected with our cause. We pay tribute to her for her noble heart, her smile, her unforgettable kindness to everyone, both at the headquarters in France and in Togo.

We continue our work serving and supporting the children in her name.



Visit to Togo in 2013

Activities in Togo in 2023

1. SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

Assistance and protection for children and their families against economic shocks are called safety nets.

Results

In 2023, your donations helped support 25 households (159 people) in vulnerable situations, including children who, being orphans, once lived in the streets.

The Friendly Haven, through regular meetings at its headquarters in Atakpamé, supports the children each month with a regular direct donation to the foster families. These meetings bring together all the children and their foster families for moments of joy and sharing. This economic support is a relevant tool to meet basic needs while supporting the local economy.



2. EDUCATION

Supporting underprivileged children for the 2023/2024 School Year was a priority.

In 2023, The Friendly Haven supported 54 children who received school supplies, clothes, and shoes, enabling them to start the school year under good conditions and gain access to education. It's important to note that in Togo, without a school uniform, children are not allowed to enroll in a school. The uniforms must be paid by the families, which is often difficult, if not impossible. Hence, our meaningful intervention.

Results

In 2023, La Maison des Amis supported 25 children formerly hosted at our orphanage with school kits,

But also

Supported 19 children living close to our headquarters in very poor conditions.

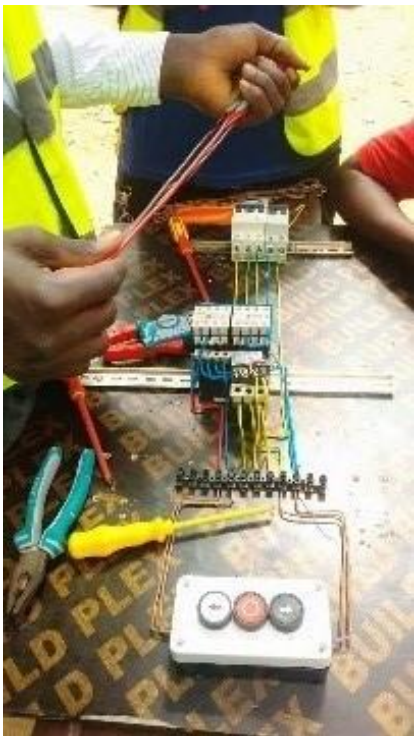
The right to education is fundamental for the development of all children.

Our NGO distributes school supplies at the start of each school year to relieve foster families and other families next to our association's headquarters.

Moreover, one of the children among the 30 hosted at the Hope Foster Home in 2013, succeeded in his baccalaureate exam this year, thanks to your donations. We are so proud of him as so few go this far in their studies.



In 2023, some of our children have decided to pursue vocational training. The Friendly Haven has organized and signed apprenticeship contracts for the 6 young people in various fields: hairdressing, electricity, masonry,... What a pride for us who have supported these children since their early childhood: we are delighted to see them grow and move towards their future!



3. FOOD SECURITY

Additional food donations have been made to strengthen the resilience of the most destitute families facing food crises. We carry out this type of operation very regularly.

In 2023, your help contributed to the strengthening of 27 households to cope with the soaring prices in Togo.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russo-Ukrainian war, and climate variability continue to impact households in Togo with increased inflation throughout the country. This is why we deemed it necessary to continue to assist the foster families of the children, and those living around our headquarters, through the distribution of food and hygiene kits.



4. VISIT AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT NON-VIOLENCE

Visits to families, communication, and awareness actions create trust between all those who are united to serve a common goal : supporting and protecting vulnerable children.

In 2023, your donations enabled our educators to visit children in their foster families, to regularly organize meetings and awareness sessions on non-violence with families and children, while remaining attentive to everyone's needs.



Regular meetings are held with the children and foster families at the headquarters. These meetings provide an opportunity to express oneself and open a dialogue. Usually, the topics discussed include the children's schooling, the socio-economic and health situation in Atakpamé, the difficulties of the children and foster families, and we conclude with proposals and solutions.

5. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas is a magical time for children, of course, the most awaited celebration : our little ones are no exception ! We obviously didn't miss this opportunity to convey a message of hope to these orphans.

A great time of celebration : meals, gifts (clothing, meals, food kits), games, songs, and dances.

Our goal is to allow these vulnerable children and their foster families to spend quality time and feel joy during this celebration period.



6.CHANGES IN THE FIELD TEAM

This year, starting from the end of May, our economic situation forced us to put an end to our contract with our former Togo director and agronomist, Mr. Jazi. Although employed on a local contract, the cost of his salary weighed too heavily on our finances.

He was replaced by one of our former employees, Mr. Messa Degboe, known as Marius, whom we warmly thank for catching up so quickly and well while accepting a very small remuneration (100 euros per month) for his work with the children. He is assisted by another volunteer who has been with us from the very start, Mrs. Eulalie, to whom we pay the same amount monthly.

We thank both of them for their support.



Marius is pictured above on the right, and Eulalie is also pictured below on the right.



7. OUR FUTURE PROJECTS IN TOGO

Our top priority is to continue taking care of our children who are currently in foster care. In 2023, while 6 of them were supported for their vocational training over 3 years, we have reintegrated 6 other young children as beneficiaries.



We also hope to find the necessary funding to gradually rehabilitate our orphanage and relaunch our agro-pastoral project. In the meantime, we could also rent it out on a completely temporary basis to individuals who would be able to undertake the renovations: a religious congregation has contacted us in this regard. We will carefully study the seriousness of this proposal.



Here, as every year, we weed the orphanage to protect it from fires.

We also wish to continue taking care of our group of widows, who were supported several years ago. We aim to help them regarding health issues, training and creating little businesses.

We will continue to promote the culture of non-violence through awareness sessions, targeting high schools and colleges and the community of Atakpamé and its surroundings, in order to strengthen the actions already carried out for several years.

We are actively seeking new partners to fund the renovations of our orphanage. In 2023, we established a partnership with a French company that will donate 3% of its profits to us each year and with a writer and children’s illustrator who will also provide us with annual support based on her sales.

Additional Activities

1. Congo

As usual, we have been working in D.R.Congo alongside our partner, VIVERE, to support the re-schooling of young girls who are victims of rape and sexual abuse with torture.

To avoid impacting our donors, this activity was funded by a personal donation from the president of The Friendly Haven.



2.Ukraine

Since the beginning of the war, we have chosen to support Ukrainian refugees who have recently arrived in Europe, close to our headquarters in France.

We have been assisting them with clothing, furniture and children's items, but also with psychotherapy sessions focused on psychotrauma.

As funds were running low, we financed these activities only until the beginning of the summer, asking our regular therapists to conduct sessions at less than half their normal price from January to July.

From the summer onwards, these therapists, including the president of the Friendly Haven, have been offering these sessions 100% voluntarily, and they will continue to do so in 2024.

The Friendly Haven never abandons its beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION

Even in times of budgetary constraints, we stand firm and face the challenges head-on, never letting go of the children and families we have supported in Togo for over 15 years. In all these years, our NGO has saved hundreds of lives. And it's thanks to you.

We will remain united.

Thank you for continuing with us, at your own pace, together.

Every small step matters, and we will continue to work day after day with the same courage and the same passion, doing our best to find new sources of funding.

Financial Report

This year, the Friendly Haven has chosen to engage an auditor in order to have the strictest accounting possible, and you will find his report attached. For the sake of simplification, however, we have prepared the following table as usual :

The Friendly Haven

2023 Financial report

Expenses	In €	Resources	In €
		Funds remaining available as of 01/01/2023	8 799
TOGO :			
<u>Expenses related to children :</u>	<u>18 302</u>	Funds from founding sponsors	2 900
		Donations from other donors	19 079

		TOTAL RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	<u>21 979</u>
<u>Expenses for the local staff in Togo</u>	<u>8 446</u>		
<u>Other programmes</u>	<u>1 470</u>		
<u>UKRAINE :</u> expenses for support	1 220		
<u>Contributions to other associations:</u>	250		
<u>Other expenses</u>	<u>2 363</u>		
Banking and transfer expenses	463		
Accountant fees	1 200		
Maintenance of the Friendly Heaven website	200		
Other administrative expenses	500		
TOTAL EXPENSES 2023	30 581	TOTAL RESOURCES 2023	21 979

To be compared with : Total expenses 2022 Total expenses 2021 Total expenses 2020	38 221 36 198 27 760	To be compared with : Total resources 2022 Total resources 2021 Total resources 2020	37 204 43 301 28 298
		Funds available as of 01/01/2024	197

As you can see, the donations we have received have significantly decreased, and we have done our utmost to continue as well as possible, always serving the children.

To cut back, we have terminated the contract of our agronomist and project manager, who was a cost to our association. He has been replaced by two volunteers whom we have worked with for 15 years. We only pay them a very modest amount for their support to the activities of our association (100 euros per month per volunteer + transport).

We have also reduced our support to other programs outside of the Togo program on which we are refocusing all our efforts.

We have done our best to find new sources of funding for 2024, linking with companies and artists as explained in the annual report.

At the beginning of 2024, we have been able to hold on thanks to personal donations from the founders. It is clear that if none of our supporters join us in the coming months, we will be forced to cease our activities.

Budget for 2024

Annual expenses	In Euros
CHILDREN TOGO	<u>20 928</u>
Funds for the children and the host families <i>-1500 euros per month</i>	18 000
Funds for Christmas and for the new school year	2 000
Special fund for clothing	928

<u>Other expenses for the Togo programme, Total</u>	<u>4 600</u>
Administrative fees	300
Maintenance and weeding of the orphanage	200
Legal fees	500
Financial support for the two volunteers	2 400
Transportation of the volunteers	1 200
<u>Miscellaneous operating expenses</u>	<u>1 520</u>
Bank fees	200
Website	120
Auditor fees	1 200
TOTAL	27 048

As you can see, our ambitions are modest, and we are solely focusing on supporting the children of Togo. We no longer have field employees but only our volunteers. We sincerely hope that our donors will be present to continue this work started more than 15 years ago.

<p>For your donations :</p> <p><u>By bank cheque to be addressed to:</u></p> <p>« La Maison des Amis », HAPPY ALPILLES, Route du Ferigoulas, quartier Haut Devenson, F 13 890 Mouriès, France</p> <p><u>or by bank transfer :</u></p> <p>Bank name : La Banque Postale</p> <p>Account holder : La Maison des Amis</p> <p>Account number : 20041 01008 2153721R029 38</p> <p>IBAN : FR 17 2004 1010 0821 5372 1R02 938</p> <p>BIC : PSSTFRPPMAR</p>
