



Togo Facts

Togo being close to the Equator has a tropical hot (28-32C), humid climate in the South. The North is semi-arid. The South is fortunate to experience two rainy seasons. The country consists primarily of two savanna plains regions separated by a range of hills.

Togo is one-third larger than Switzerland (54'000 sq.km.vs.41'000 sq, km.) Her Population is similar to Switzerland's (7.2mm vs. 7,7 mm (2013 est.)). The official language is French, but native tongues are most often spoken. Most of Togo's peoples hold indigenous beliefs with sizeable Christian and Muslim minorities.

- Democratic gains in recent years have allowed Togo to hold its first relatively free and fair legislative election in October 2007.
- Togo's long suffering population has seen its living standards decline precipitously since the 1980's.
- GDP (PPP) per capita is \$1,096 (2012 est.). Switzerland's is x42 larger.
- The per capita gross national income according to the World Bank 2006 date is \$350 vs. \$60'000 for Switzerland.
- Sixty-five percent of the population survives in an agricultural setting. Cocoa, coffee, cotton, corn, rice, and beans are the major crops.

- Thirty-nine percent of Togo's people live below the international poverty line (\$1.25/day).
- The UN's Human Development Index places Togo at 159 of the 179 countries surveyed.
- Health Expenditures were at \$63 (PPP) per capita in 2004.
- There were 5 physicians per 100,000 people in 2008-approximately 350 doctors country wide (in Switzerland 210 physicians per 100'000). There are estimated to be 15 optometrists or eye doctors in or near Togo. Baden and near vicinity have more.

Program Highlights

- Initial focus: serving patients with severe cataracts.
- Swiss doctors and medical staff performing initial surgeries.
- Lead by a Swiss doctor with similar field experiences in India and Mexico.
- Togo doctors assisting and learning proper procedures.
- Funds for microscope (CHF 35,000) have already been acquired. (To be left behind in trained hands for the continual benefit of Togo's people.)
- Searching now for funds for medical supplies and infrastructure support.
- Working with the Hospital in Vogan, 60km from the capital of Lome.
- Multiple year project: five to seven years currently projected.
- Additional medical services to be added once infrastructure is developed and needs more fully understood.