

Role of youth volunteerism in national strategies for poverty reduction and development.

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 - II - the different areas of intervention of the NGOs and associations
 - III - National strategies for poverty reduction and development
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Introduction

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- I - Status of volunteer associations in West Africa (as in Togo)
- II - the different areas of intervention of the NGOs and associations
- III - National strategies for poverty reduction and development
- IV - What roles volunteers play in achieving results ?
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I - Situation of volunteers in our country

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Togo is part of French speaking country in west Africa. where there has been the most youth voluntary associations in african french countries these last two decades ...

The first voluntary associations were born before the independence and this phenomenon has grown from years 90 with the advent of multipartism and democracy wind which has been followed by serious socio-political crises.

The togolese government at that time relied on the NGO's to response to social, economical issues in the country as the cooperation with financial institutions has been no more going on. The NGO's still at diverse level being funded by western partners and this has contributed enormous to the well being of the population .

the whole living matters were relying on the shoulder of these volunteerism associations which organized (main of them) workcamps (short term and long term) on various topics.

- II -the different areas of intervention of the NGOs and associations The fields of action of its structures are varied:environment;Education ;health ;cultureHumanitarian actions ;Agriculture ;Human Rights;and cross-cutting issues (Gender, political, economic and Social Rights , etc.)

III - The national poverty reduction strategies for development

The national poverty reduction strategies for development The strategies are leaded through some points, we would like to mention: Promoting education and training system;health and nutrition system development;Access to drinking water and sanitation;Strengthening social protection;Promoting equity and gender equality;Youth Development and Employment Promotion.

Trends for the achievement of results

- *** The Education Sector Plan aims by 2020, to balance the national educational pyramid , to universalize primary completion , increase as much as possible the completion of junior and senior secondary school and phasing of the development technical education and vocational training. and higher education with the quantitative needs of the labor market ;
- *** Strengthening the health system
- *** Access to drinking water and sanitation.
- *** Environment, sustainable management of natural resources and living environment (reducing anthropogenic pressure on forest resources; further secure the forest domain of the State equally involving men and women; promote best practices in sustainable land management , forests and water ; to the integrated and sustainable rural development a priority that includes agriculture, forestry and livestock) .
- *** Improving people's access to adequate sanitation, and promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices.

(Source : scape Togo 2013-2017)


IV - What roles volunteers play in achieving results

Volunteers provide support through different mechanisms and actions: Volunteers act through various sectors in their efforts for development. They work either as volunteers in international projects workcamps (School construction, health clinics, gardening, building roads, agriculture school support ...) either as national volunteers (promotion of national volunteers for youth...) or through medium and long-term projects (United Nations volunteers; Peace Corps etc.) The government of Togo is aware of the issues and the contribution of volunteerism in the reduction of the fight against poverty has also initiated the PROVONAT which annually attracts over 2000-3500 youth national volunteers. It is a culture of civic engagement and social value system of human resources available in the country. This volunteer program is almost identical in some other countries in our sub-region. For example, a recent research by France Volontaire, Volunteer in Togo in 2014 is estimated in 1,643 volunteers initiations and Viech exchanges, 80% on international solidarity projects.³⁰ VSI international solidarity volunteer¹⁹ volunteer for exchange programs¹⁴ International Civic Service (Source: Frances Volunteer in Togo, 2014)



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- **At MDJ NGO,** From 2002 to 2014 more than 500 volunteers have taken part to our achievements various sector. Other organization leads projects includes helping communities on projects that reduce poverty. In various voluntary sectors are contributing : Constructions of community health centers and schools, health clinics and even pharmacies; provide drugs and equipment for hospitals...Advocacy by various themes (climate change, HIV / AIDS, violence against women, legal framework for recognition of volunteers ...)Forest restoration and water conservation;Construction of public toilets by volunteers;Installation of corn mills;Networking of agricultural and rural organizationsImprovement of living conditions of the people through microcredit projects...



At MDJ NGO for example , we have through our projects :Built 5 schools in villages from 2002 to 2015;Made of wells in village;4 public toilets in village;30 hectares of reforestation fertilizing

(Samanea sama : agroforestry) ;Supported the education of children and youth training; Computer center for young people of a district of Lomé ; Capacity building programs for 850 young volunteers and recovery efforts; Support for two groups of women farmers in the protection of medicinal plants.

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Volunteering is a universal data by which "We the peoples , we have the power to change the world“

Amsterdam 2001, International Year of the UN volunteering

Conclusion

- Volunteers through their missions and projects they carry are an essential element for sustainable development of each country and allow us to act effectively on issues of extreme poverty in order to reduce inequality and suffering of people . In this fight , volunteering remains a base for sustainable development of our countries .



Thank you
for your kind attention