

# *Dignity Toilets for Togo*



Improving Lives through Sanitation and Safety

Doc Reiss, Director

Taouvik Boukari, On-Site Foreman

# Dignity Toilets for Togo

Togo is one of Africa's smallest nations—and one of the poorest. It is slightly smaller than the state of West Virginia. It lies between Ghana to the west and Benin to the east and borders the Gulf of Guinea. It has an estimated population of 6.2 million people. Approximately one half live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. In 2002 the average minimum wage job paid \$20—\$33 a month.



The HIV/AIDS rate for 15-49 year olds, according to the United Nations, is six percent.

There is a village of 1200, ZOGBEDJI kegue, that lies about an hour away from the nation's capital, but unlike Lome' with its hotels and thriving businesses, in this village there is no indoor plumbing, many do not have electricity and because of annual floods (which they call "big water") that take out the streets, septic systems do not function. There are no outhouses for the same reason.

Bedi Taouvik Boukari—Taouvik to his friends—lives in ZOGBEDJI kegue. He is 28 according to his passport and 32 according to his family. He graduated from secondary school speaking French and his native language and taught himself English. He is an ironworker. I met him through a correspondence site about five years ago.

In the first three years that I knew him, Tao never asked for money and never complained, so it was a surprise one day when he said he was tired of having to go to the bushes. I asked what he meant and he explained that with no sanitation facilities the majority in his village went into the bushes to go to the bathroom. It is a practice that has gone on for generations.

In villages such as Tao's, having to find a secluded area that someone else has not found can be a challenge at times, requiring people to wander further and further out. It is also known that women are some times raped in the bushes. The excrement goes into the ground water and flies landing on it can carry bacteria back to the village homes. Clearly something needed to be done. I checked on self-composting toilets and found the manufactured ones cost over \$1,000



I told Tao my findings. He said he would check and see what he could find. One of his friends' father works for the government and Tao asked the man if he could help. The father found a set of plans that had been developed by the government for a concrete, self-composting toilet and gave us a copy of the plans. The first one we built cost about \$450. People noticed it and we began to get requests from other families to build one for them. (We currently have a waiting list of eleven families).

Over the past couple years, Tao has managed to refine the design to make them less expensive to construct and we require every family to participate in some way to have an ownership in it.

Each family provides materials, labor or— in the case of an elderly woman and her son -food for the workers. This gives each family a sense of ownership and also helps reduce our construction costs.

The process runs the same every time. We go to the selected family and ask if they have the materials ready. (While they are waiting, families will gather materials as they can: sand, gravel, and even concrete blocks).



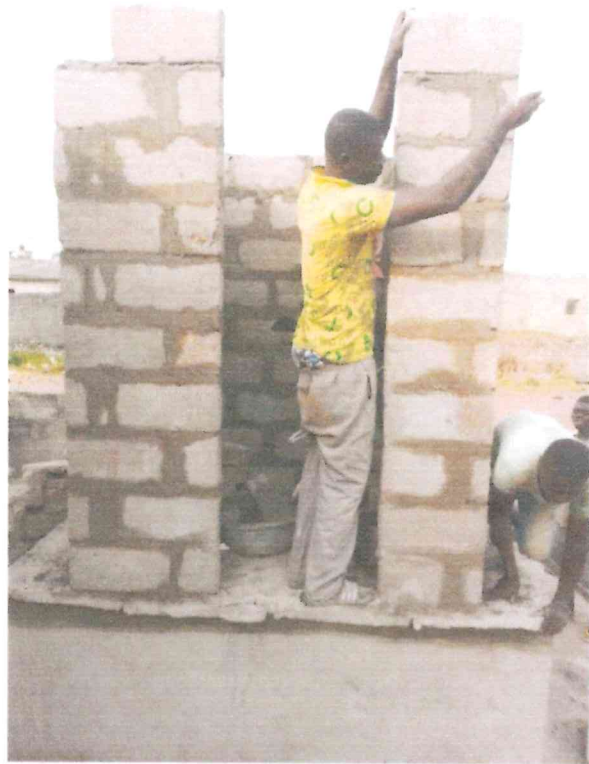
A site is selected and the workers mix sand, gravel and concrete together on the ground. It is shoveled into forms and the concrete bricks are set in the sun to dry. Rebar is put together for the base. A concrete pad is poured while the bricks dry. The two chamber base is then set. Next a concrete beam is set and the floor installed.



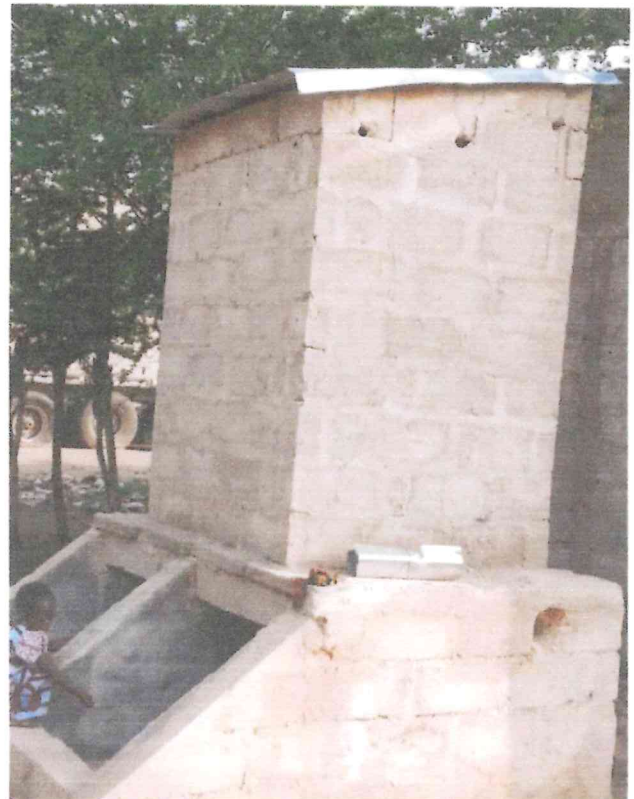
The floor is poured in three sections with holes precast for the squat toilet openings.



Once installed, the cabinet is built on top.



When the cabinet has been finished, a corrugated metal roof is added.





We add a door and add the squat toilets. A plumber runs drain lines for the water and vent pipes for the gasses.

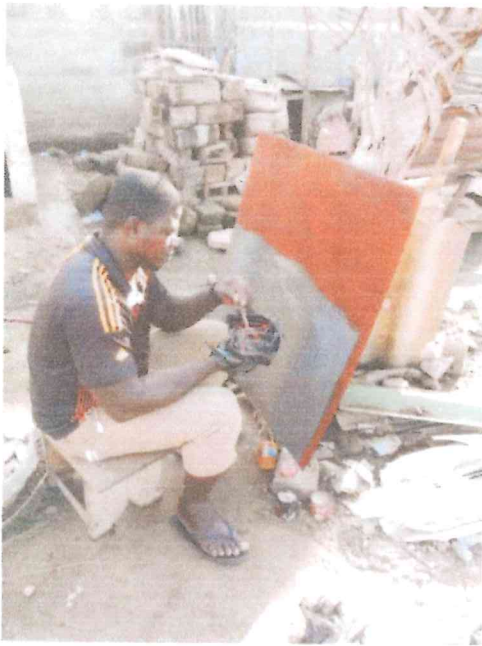


Some families add a broken tile mosaic to make it a bit nicer inside and out.



Steps are poured and we are almost done.





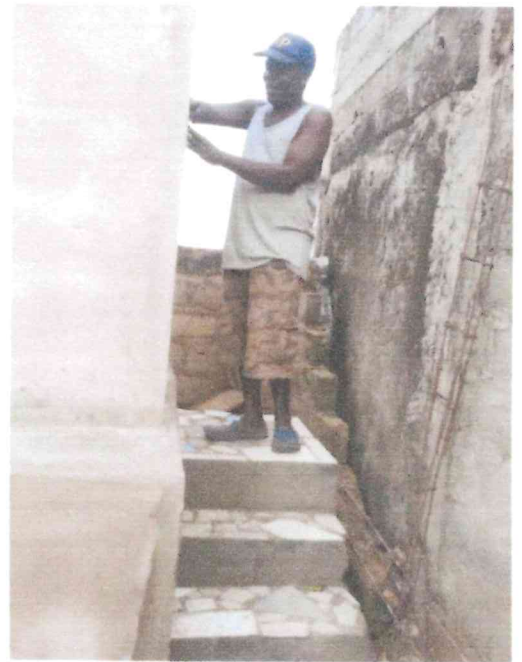
The family will use one side for six months and then switch to the other chamber. The composting will take place with an enzyme added and heat from the sun.

Each chamber is sealed with a metal plate that has been painted black and secured in place with concrete around the edges.



Each Dignity Toilet is marked with a number and then the father is called to inspect it for his family.

This is the Odah family, proud owners of our latest effort.



The cost varies, but averages \$350 per Dignity Toilet plus \$50 for labor. With your help we can give a better life to families like these.



**The Ouro Djobo family September, 2016**

Bricklayer = 25 000fr  
plumber +materials=20 000fr  
Carpenter +materials= 21 000fr  
Back door and painting =15 000fr  
Irons = 11 000fr  
Gravels = 10 000fr  
Cement = 52 000fr  
Fabrications manufactures of bricks 4 000fr  
Transport 5000fr  
TOTAL= 163 000FR



## **ODAH Fanu family October, 2016**

contributed with some materials, like sand, bricks, and few gravels,  
we D-T 7

we complete with

bricklayer = 25 000 fr

plumber +materials = 19 000 fr

carpenter +materials = 20 000fr

cements 10packets \* 4000fr = 40 000fr

gravels = 5 000fr

irons = 11 000 fr

backdoor = 15 000

transport of materials = 7 000 fr

all is TOTAL = 142 000fr





**FAMILY:** MADJO KOMLAN Bruno

**Materials and workers amounts**

Bricklayer: 25 000Fr

Plumber: 14 000Fr

Carpenter: 15 000Fr

Irons: 9000Fr

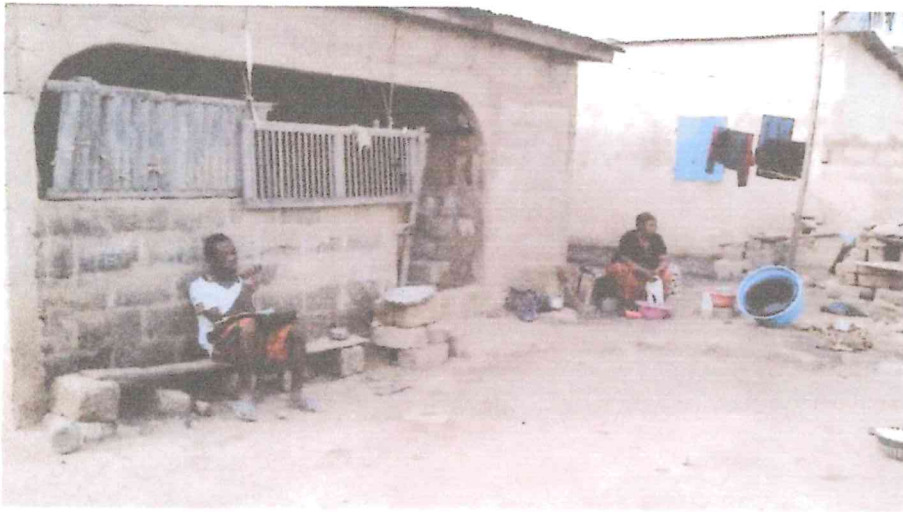
Back door: 15000Fr

All cost TOTAL: 78000Fr

The family contributed with sand, gravels, and bricks, cements

All the work from start until end of work took 20days





FAMILY: ADOI AWAL

Materials and worker amounts

Bricklayer: 25 000Fr

Plumber: 14 000Fr

Carpenter: 15 000Fr

Irons: 9000Fr

Back door: 15000Fr

Cements 14packets \*4200Fr = 58800Fr

All costs TOTAL: 136800Fr

The family contributed with sand, gravels, and bricks

All the work from start until end of work took 20days





**FAMMILY: BOUKARI BEDI.....**

**Materials and worker amounts**

Bricklayer: 30 000Fr

Plumber: 17 000Fr

Carpenter: 7500fr

Irons: 18 000Fr

Back door: 5000Fr

Cements 14packets \*4000Fr = 56 000Fr

Paints walls of WC: 5000fr

Transport of materials: 10 000Fr

All costs TOTAL: 148500Fr

The family contributed with sand, gravels, and bricks All the work took 21days



# Example of materials receipts needed to build a Dignity Toilet

Date: 22/02/2016  
FACTURE N° 000001

Qte	Designation	P.U.	P.Total
0.8	lunon 75	450	3600
0.2	clapseau 75	750	1500
0.2	clapseau 100	1000	2000
0.2	collier 75	650	1300
0.4	collier 100	250	1000
0.2	collier de rot	900	1800
0.1	collier à la main	1500	1500
0.1	Tuyau PVC 110	1000	1000
TOTAL			14800

**PAYÉ LIVRE**

ETS. FRANK  
GLOIRE A DIEU  
Quincaillerie Generale  
Kempes Etapeygnon  
Cal 06 09 79 43 95 42 97 42  
23 47 48 91 1081 7050  
Date: 01/02/2016  
FACTURE N° 002437

Nom de Client

Qte	DESIGNATION	P.U.	P.Total
01	100 de 1/2"	13000	13000
02	100 de 1/2"	120	240
TOTAL			13240

Après la présente facture à la somme de

Signature Client

ETS LE ROI  
Vente des Matériaux de Construction  
Electricité, Plomberie & Serrurerie  
Plomberie, Serrurerie et Peinture  
Rue de l'Industrie, 10000  
Tél: 01 47 46 12 00 - Fax: 01 47 46 12 01  
Nom de Client

Date: 19.03.016  
FACTURE N° 0001  
01000

Qte	DESIGNATION	P.U.	P.Total
2	Arrière 6 750	1500	3000
10	1/2" 100	500	5000
10	1/2" 100	700	7000
TOTAL			15000

Après la présente facture à la somme de

Signature Client

Date: 03/02/2016  
FACTURE N° 000306

Qte	DESIGNATION	P.U.	P.Total
16	100 de 1/2"	1000	16000
TOTAL			16000

**PAYÉ LIVRE**

**PAYÉ LIVRE**

RECU

10 pages de ciment

Date: 03/02/2016

Signature

N° 0027689

ETS LE ROI  
Vente des Matériaux de Construction  
Electricité, Plomberie & Serrurerie  
Plomberie, Serrurerie et Peinture  
Rue de l'Industrie, 10000  
Tél: 01 47 46 12 00 - Fax: 01 47 46 12 01  
Nom de Client

Date: 19.03.016  
FACTURE N° 0001  
01000

Qte	DESIGNATION	P.U.	P.Total
10	100 de 1/2"	1600	16000
TOTAL			16000

Après la présente facture à la somme de

Signature Client