

**Deki empowers communities to
be resilient to poverty and the
effects of climate change**



Impact Report 2023

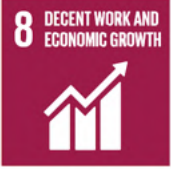


DEKI



CONTENTS

Update from Deki's CEO and IADES MD	3
About Deki and our holistic approach	4
2023 Project Impact	5
Wezou Lim Water is Life Project	6
Adokpo Wazam Cookstoves Project	10
MUSA Healthcare for all Project	14
Womens Empowerment Collective	18
Agricultural Cooperatives	22
Meet the Team	26
Support Us	27



A Letter from the Founders



This year's African proverb aptly articulates how, with strong foundations, communities can build resilience and is the basis of our holistic approach.

As the founders of the sister organisations Deki and IADES, we have always had a strong belief that development should be community-led and that community members themselves can create the changes they want to see.

When we began our partnership, we focused on microfinance, alongside business and financial training, which continues through our Agricultural Cooperatives and Women Empowerment Collectives. After carrying out extensive needs assessments in 2019, we learned that the basic needs of families were not being addressed. For a community to build resilience to poverty and climate change, they need to have access to safe drinking water, improved cookstoves, and community healthcare.

It is by providing access to these basic needs that we can grow the deep roots required for microfinance to work at its best and for communities to become resilient.

"When the roots are deep, there is no reason to fear the wind."

In the last 12 months, we have continued to rehabilitate broken boreholes, bringing safe drinking water to a total of 123 communities. We built a cookstove workshop that employs 21 local people to make energy-efficient cookstoves from local clay and scrap metal, halving the amount of wood required each day and saving women an hour a day in collecting wood. In 2023 we distributed over 4,000 cookstoves. We launched our Health Care for All project, and this year we plan to build 12 community Health Hubs. We also continued to significantly grow our two microfinance projects.

2023 brought with it significant growth and development, of which none would be possible without our strong partnership and passionate and hardworking local team of nearly 50 people in Togo.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued generosity of our supporters, without whom none of this work would be possible.

Best wishes,

**Vashti Seth and Christian Kadangah
Founders and Directors of Deki and IADES**

About Deki

Deki is an international development charity working in Togo, West Africa with a vision for a world of opportunity, not poverty. Through community development projects, education and microfinance, we are building resilient communities by empowering families to make positive change for themselves. We are a dedicated team based primarily in Togo, with a small team in Bristol. Historically we have supported over 200,000 people across 6 different countries.

At Deki, we believe that local communities are intrinsically capable and should be given the opportunity to improve their own futures. We empower local communities by giving them the tools they need to become resilient to poverty and the effects of climate change. We enable the communities themselves to be the agents of change by supporting them to work together to build better futures.

Our Holistic Approach

Our work is led by the needs of local people, to ensure we make the most effective impact possible. Through building strong relationships with rural communities, our partners, and government agencies, we have developed a deeper understanding of the needs faced at a local level. Deki's dedicated impact team visits each village so we can better understand the needs and wishes of each community and how best to empower them to build a better future for themselves. By working together, we provide families with the tools and resources they need to become resilient and self-sufficient, breaking the cycle of poverty for good. We believe in long-term, self-sustaining change and prioritise local solutions to community development.



Deki has a multi-dimensional approach to poverty reduction, and based on needs assessments we focus on five strategic programmes: income-generating activities, financial and ecological training, safe water, clean cookstoves and access to local affordable healthcare.

2023 Project Impact

Together in 2023 we impacted the lives of over 60,000 people

Wezou Lim

36,900



People had access to clean water

123



Water boreholes rehabilitated

194



Mother Clubs Created

Healthcare for All

864



Active health beneficiaries

52



Active Healthcare partners

9



Village health Committees

Cookstoves

1



Production unit established

21



Local people employed

4254



Cookstoves distributed

Women's Empowerment Collectives

2122



Entrepreneurial women supported

210



Active women's collectives

1466



Training Workshops

Agricultural Cooperatives

924



Small holder farmers supported

87



Active Cooperatives

235



Training Workshops

WEZOU LIM Water is Life

Safe water for all, reducing waterborne diseases in rural communities and reducing carbon emissions



*“ We are so happy that we don’t have to walk as far to collect water any more and now we have clean water we are not getting sick as much.”
Loom Mother Club*

From Poverty

Water is a human right. Together we can help provide vulnerable communities with access to clean, safe water and break free from the cycle of poverty. Many rural families in Togo have no choice but to drink water from unsafe sources like algae and contaminant-filled ponds and streams. It is either consumed untreated, leading to illness and disease, or purified over open fires which contribute to high carbon emissions and deforestation. Waterborne diseases are one of the biggest causes of infant mortality in the developing world, killing over 800 children every day. The collection of water and fuel is also a chore that disproportionately affects women and young children, reducing their time to generate income and attend education and training. Lack of safe water is more than just a case of survival, but of gender equality and environmental care.

To Opportunity

In 2023 Deki rehabilitated 123 boreholes which had been left in a state of disrepair because communities have neither the expertise or funds to repair them. The collaboration between Deki, IADES and CO2 Balance brought clean, safe water to those communities.

With only 17% of households in Togo having access to handwashing facilities with soap and water, we set up Mother Clubs to provide vital water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training to empower communities to reduce the spread of fatal disease. Providing clean water enables mothers to reclaim their time, and fights climate change too - by reducing the need to use open fires to purify the water, minimising the pressure on forests and harmful emissions.

Impact in 2023

36,900 

People had access to clean water


123 

Water boreholes rehabilitated

194 

Mother Clubs Created



A woman is carrying a large stack of water containers on her head. The stack includes a large silver metal bowl at the bottom, followed by a blue plastic bucket, and several smaller black plastic containers on top. She is wearing a yellow headscarf and a green patterned dress with red and white stars. She is standing in front of a brick wall with a tree trunk visible on the left. The background is slightly blurred, showing green foliage.

The water project has provided more than 1200 households and more than 60,000 people with drinking water. It has enabled more than 200 villages to learn about water, hygiene and sanitation. I am proud to have been part of achieving this result.



Gabin Amouzou, Wezou Lim Project Manager



Ati Toyo Mother Club

The Ati Toyo Mother Club members have learned why river water is unsafe to drink and how to store water in clean water containers.

They have learned about hygiene in the home and the importance of encouraging children to wash their hands with soap when they come home from school, and reminding everyone to wash their hands before eating.

In addition they have been taught how to take care of their water source and keep the village clean, especially the area around the borehole, keeping animals away. They have also learned the importance of going a long way from the borehole to go to the toilet as there are no latrines in the village.

The women are happy as they have already noticed that illness in their families is reduced. The Mother Club have meetings with other women in their village to share what they have learned so that everyone knows how to keep the water they drink clean.

The women all agree that now they have a clean water source in their village and no longer need to walk to the river every day.

Since we use the borehole, the people in the village have less disease, fewer people are ill now”

– Abouli, secretary of the Ati Toyo Mother Club

Adokpo Wazam Cookstoves

Clean cookstoves
for people and
the planet



©Elowin's pictures/IADES

“Me and my children are spending less time looking for firewood and I now use the time I have gained to do farming activities, because time is very important to me.”

— Adjo Treve, Cookstove beneficiary

From Poverty

Globally, nearly one out of every three people rely on polluting cooking methods, like open wood fires. Black smoke from burning wood increases greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to household air pollution, which is one of the biggest causes of death in the developing world. Wood collection in Africa also drives deforestation, increasing the risk of flash flooding, and is a dangerous and time-consuming task that disproportionately affects women and young children. The developing world is most vulnerable to the global effects of climate change, and where we work in rural Togo, nearly all rural families cook on open three-stone fires.

To Opportunity

Our fuel-efficient cookstove project provides families with safe and clean cookstoves that use less than half the wood of open fires. Our Adokpo Wazam cookstoves reduce carbon emissions and health problems, whilst increasing biodiversity by preserving natural resources. Women and children save an hour each day because the stoves use less wood which allows them more time to focus on income-generating activities and education.

We've been implementing community development projects in rural Togo since 2016. In 2023 we built our own cookstove workshop in rural Togo and created a clean and safe product that can be easily deployed to those communities in need. We worked closely with the local people to provide jobs, income and equip them with ways to reduce their wood consumption and resulting household pollution. By employing, manufacturing and distributing locally we are investing in true community development and profits will be reinvested back into the communities to fuel future growth.

Impact in 2023

1 

Production unit established

21 

Local people employed

4254 

Cookstoves distributed





Adjo Adovon

Before, when we used the traditional 3-stone fireplace, we used more wood and the smoke from the fire bothered us a lot. The smoke got in our eyes when we were cooking and in the evening and when we wanted to sleep our eyes were often sore. But now with the Adokpo cookstove, we no longer have this problem and it has made a big difference to everyday life. We don't even use the traditional fireplace anymore.

We used to collect wood twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but with the new fireplace we only collect wood once a week, usually on Tuesdays.

I will tell my friends to buy an Adokpo Wazam for their homes. Thanks to the project many other women have bought the Adokpo Wazam home after talking to their neighbours.

“We used to go and collect wood twice a week, now we only go to collect wood once a week, with the time saved we take more care of our agricultural activities which increases the yield of agricultural production”

Adjo Adovon, Cookstove beneficiary



Adokpo Wazam provides improved and economical cookstoves to the rural population of Togo. In 2023 the use of our improved cookstoves by communities contributed directly to the fight against deforestation in Togo, the sustainable management of forests, and the preservation of women's health.



Eloge Alona, Adokpo Wazam (Cookstove) Project Manager



MUSA Healthcare for All

Healthcare for All,
increasing access to
health information and
services



“If I hadn't signed up to MUSA I would not have been able to get any healthcare treatment at all, our village needs more affordable healthcare. Please help us achieve this.”

— Lata Afi, MUSA healthcare beneficiary

From Poverty

Only 30% of Togo's population currently have access to health care, with even basic care unaffordable to many. Low-income families are frightened of falling ill as without proper care, easily treatable illnesses and minor wounds can prevent vulnerable families from working as they become at risk of contracting life-threatening infections.

The inability to work can force families to sell their produce at a lower cost, plunging them deeper into poverty. In the rainy seasons, remote communities are unable to travel to healthcare centres due to extreme flooding which disturbs the rough terrain, further isolating these villages. Often this leads to expectant mothers having to give birth in their communities with little or no healthcare facilities or supplies .

To Opportunity

In 2023, Deki and IADES collaborated to offer affordable healthcare insurance to 864 community members. This initiative involved partnerships with 52 government-led Healthcare Centres, ensuring the provision of essential healthcare services to hundreds of rural communities. Additionally, 9 healthcare committees were established to facilitate training within local communities, focusing on the prevention of communicable diseases and illnesses. After carrying out a needs assessment in 2023 we are now launching our healthcare hub project aiming to build 12 new community healthcare hubs in 2024.

Impact in 2023

864



Active health beneficiaries

52



Active Healthcare Partners

9



Village Health Committees





“

Solidarity, a principle upheld by our healthcare mutual is one that is also shared with our beneficiaries. We are very happy that through MUSA we have supported each other and enabled access to quality care for our members.



Cyril Gagban, Healthcare for all Project Manager

”



LATA AFI - AZIKOPE Village

Meet Lata Afi, Lata developed an infection in her gum in February 2023. She was in a great deal of pain and was unable to access healthcare as it was too expensive. She was forced to self-medicate with unlicensed drugs which unfortunately did not clear the infection.

“If I hadn't signed up to MUSA I would not have been able to get any healthcare treatment at all, our village needs more affordable healthcare. Please help us achieve this.”

— Lata Afi

The pain increased and consequently developed into an abscess. Lata joined MUSA's Health Insurance Mutual which enabled her to seek treatment from a government-run healthcare provider at a discounted cost. However, this delay had already prolonged her illness, forcing her deeper into debt as she was unable to work or care for other members of the community. With her health deteriorating, this left Lana and her whole family in a precarious position.

Had Lata been treated at the first sign of infection, her illness would not have progressed to become more serious. Early health intervention is vital in breaking the cycle of poverty for rural communities.

Women's Empowerment Collectives

Empowering women through financial inclusion, training, and leadership



“In the past I had problems finding money for food for my children and paying for school fees but now I have the loan I feel more confident that I can pay. My dream is that one day my business becomes profitable so I can send all of my children to school.”

Amedia Marie, Espoire Collective

From Poverty

We are passionate about gender equality and enabling women to fulfil their potential. Women are amongst the most vulnerable people in rural communities, like Togo, and face high levels of poverty. Women do not experience the same educational or economic opportunities as men, with nearly half of women aged 15-24 unable to read or write having had to sacrifice their education to support their families. Nearly a quarter of women are married before the age of 19 and with little access to family planning advice or contraception they are responsible for raising children and looking after the home from an early age. Furthermore they are financially excluded, with only one in five women in rural Togo having access to a bank account, without which they are unable to access capital to work their way out of poverty and so the cycle continues.

To Opportunity

We empower women to become self-sufficient through financial inclusion, business training, family planning support and leadership opportunities. Our Women's Empowerment Collectives are solidarity groups where women can come together to learn about their rights, become leaders and build their own businesses. These regular meetings help them develop skills, build their confidence and decision-making abilities and give these women the opportunity to create a business that will support them and their families to be financially independent. We also offer microloans to invest in their businesses and give them a platform for change. With their own sources of income, women are empowered to shape their own futures and work their way out of poverty. In 2023 the project has 210 active collectives that have supported 2122 women to set up their own entrepreneurial initiatives and has provided financial literacy training through the delivery of 235 workshops.

Impact in 2023

2122 

Entrepreneurial women supported

210 

Active women's collectives

1466 

Training workshops delivered





My conviction always remains the same; to work with those who are disadvantaged, to bring joy and hope to vulnerable women through training and support. In doing so the women cultivate solidarity, good communication and help each other. I am particularly proud of our work in 2023 because the women have expressed a feeling of pride. Their testimonies show how the project has contributed to the improvement of their daily lives.



***Olivia Lassey, Operations Manager,
Women's Empowerment Collectives***



Espoire, Women Empowerment Collective

‘Fish Village’, Abobo District

The Espoire Collective had already been working together for some time as an informal solidarity group, but since IADES introduced the microloan they now all work together more closely as a collective to save and access training to help manage their finances and enterprises. This enables them to and save as a collective and if someone is sick or when a baby is born, they can all contribute. The women lock their savings in a box which has 3 locks and 3 different members of the collective each hold a key. This offers protection for their savings and means no one individual can access the money alone.

Doevi Ami, Collective member

Doevi is a garden farmer, who had to walk an hour every day to get to her farm. The farm is located by a lake as requires a lot of watering. She took out a microloan to pay for repairs to her motorised water pump as it had been broken for a while and she was having to rent one for 1,500 xof a day. Doevi took out a micro loan for 50,000 xof using 12,000 of it to repair the pump. Now she can afford to buy more food for the family and have some savings in case anything else goes wrong.

“If you have a need you can use it, for instance, if you need healthcare, or if your children are sick you can use that money to take them to hospital or you can spend it to fund your activity.” Doevi Ami

Agricultural Cooperatives

Building resilience to climate change



Gabriel Hini, Project Manager for Cooperatives, Keve region

“I am very happy to participate in the development and witness the improvement of the living conditions of rural populations that the cooperative project provides. I see first-hand the benefit to the agricultural producers through the training, support and technical advice that IADES provides.”



From Poverty

In West Africa, the effects of climate change are already having a huge impact on the quality of life of subsistence farmers who are stuck in a precarious struggle to feed their families. They lack knowledge of modern sustainable farming practices and use rudimentary tools and techniques. Trapped in a cycle of poverty, families and especially women are unable to improve their yield to make a decent income or access the financial resources to invest in their businesses. The effects of climate change on agriculture, such as irregular rainfall, droughts, flooding and changes in temperature can cause crops to fail and leave families in devastating situations.

To Opportunity

Since 2020, we have been supporting small-scale farmers to work collectively and form self-led cooperatives which enables them to pool resources, learn together and access state services. Cooperatives give farmers a degree of certainty and play a vital role in socioeconomic development, food security and poverty reduction. We work with local partners and the government to equip farmers with knowledge of sustainable farming practices which helps them combat the effects of climate change and protect their land. Our Farmer Field Schools give smallholder farmers practical experience in sustainable land management, empowering them to make positive and long-term change.

We also offer microloans to buy inputs that help to increase a community's income-earning potential. We use our training as an opportunity to empower women with at least 50% of cooperative leadership positions occupied by women. In 2023, we established 87 new agricultural cooperatives, and supported over 924 small holder farmers.

Impact in 2023

924 

Small holder
farmers supported

87 

Active
Cooperatives

235 

Training Workshops



We are proud of the support the agricultural cooperatives project, has given the agricultural producers. It has enabled the beneficiaries to increase their cultivable areas and profits. It is a great joy for me to lead this social programme that offers a fulfilling life to the rural population of the Plateaux region of Togo



Ambroise Houndzo, Project Manager, Cooperatives, Plateaux Region





The Lonlonyo Cooperative

The Lonlonyo cooperative, located in the Plateaux region, is made up primarily of pineapple growers. Before they formed Lonlonyo, they had experienced great difficulty selling their pineapples for a good price as individual farmers. Traders would come from Lomé to buy the pineapples from them and offer a low price, and because the farmers needed the income to look after their families, they felt they had no choice but to accept the prices offered.

Now working together, they all agree on the price of their pineapples, and when approached individually they refuse the low prices. This prevents haggling over prices and arguments over raising or lowering prices. Being in the cooperative has given them solidarity and selling power.

One of the many benefits of being a recognised cooperative is the support and training they receive from ICAT (Institute for Consulting and Technical Support). ICAT teach new and more effective farming techniques, such as the amount of seeds the land will support, how to create furrows for planting seeds, soil fertility management and integration of organic matter into cultivation practices. It was during one of these sessions that ICAT helped Lonlonyo to find a juice manufacturer.

Lonlonyo now sell the majority of their harvest to a company that uses their pineapples to make fresh juice, if there are any remaining pineapples, then as a group, the cooperative takes their pineapples to another buyer and sells them for an already agreed-upon price.

“Being in a cooperative group makes community action stronger.”

Mawougbe Mamivi, Secretary of Lonlonyo Cooperative

Meet the Team



Vashti Seth
Founder & CEO



Christian Kadangah
IADES Founder and
Managing Director



Katy Bird
Business Development
Manager



Shelby Alexander
Digital Marketing and
Communications Manager



Olivia Lassey
Operations Manager



Liz Stagg
Full Time Volunteer



Gabriel Hini
Cooperative Project Manager
Ave Region



Ambrose Houndzou
Cooperatives Project
Manager, Plateaux Region



Gabin Amouzou
Wezou Lim Project Manager



Cyril Gagban
Healthcare for All Project
Manager



Eloge Alona
Environmental Sustainability
Manager



Victoire Allayeh
Human Resources Manager



Adoude Akue
Accountant and Admin
Manager



Guillaume Monde
Risk Manager



Komla Afanou
Internal Auditor



Ida Vigbedor
Director's Assistant

Give the gift of Sustainable Change

Make a significant impact by generously donating to one of Deki's invaluable programmes. Whether you're a Trust, or Foundation or would like to give a one-off payment, please get in touch.

Your kind generosity will support our mission to empower communities to make a long-lasting sustainable change.

How to get involved

Business Partnership

Support Deki by forming a meaningful partnership, share in our vision for a world of opportunity, not poverty, and inspire your team to help empower Togolese communities to thrive.

Deki Friends

Sign up to a monthly donation to become a Deki Friend and help us continue our ongoing commitment to tackle extreme poverty and the effects of climate change.

Leave a legacy

Create a lasting legacy by including a gift to Deki in your will, shaping a world of opportunity for future generations. Contact us to discover more about this impactful commitment.



Donate Today

www.deki.org.uk

For all opportunities please contact our Business Development Manager Katy Bird

katy@deki.org.uk





1-3 Gloucester Rd
Bristol, BS7 8AA
Phone: 0117 32 50 757
www.deki.org.uk
hello@deki.org.uk
Registered Charity number: 1137047



DEKI

www.deki.org.uk



Donate Today!



With special thanks for ©ElowinPictures & ©ShelbyAlexander for their amazing photographs