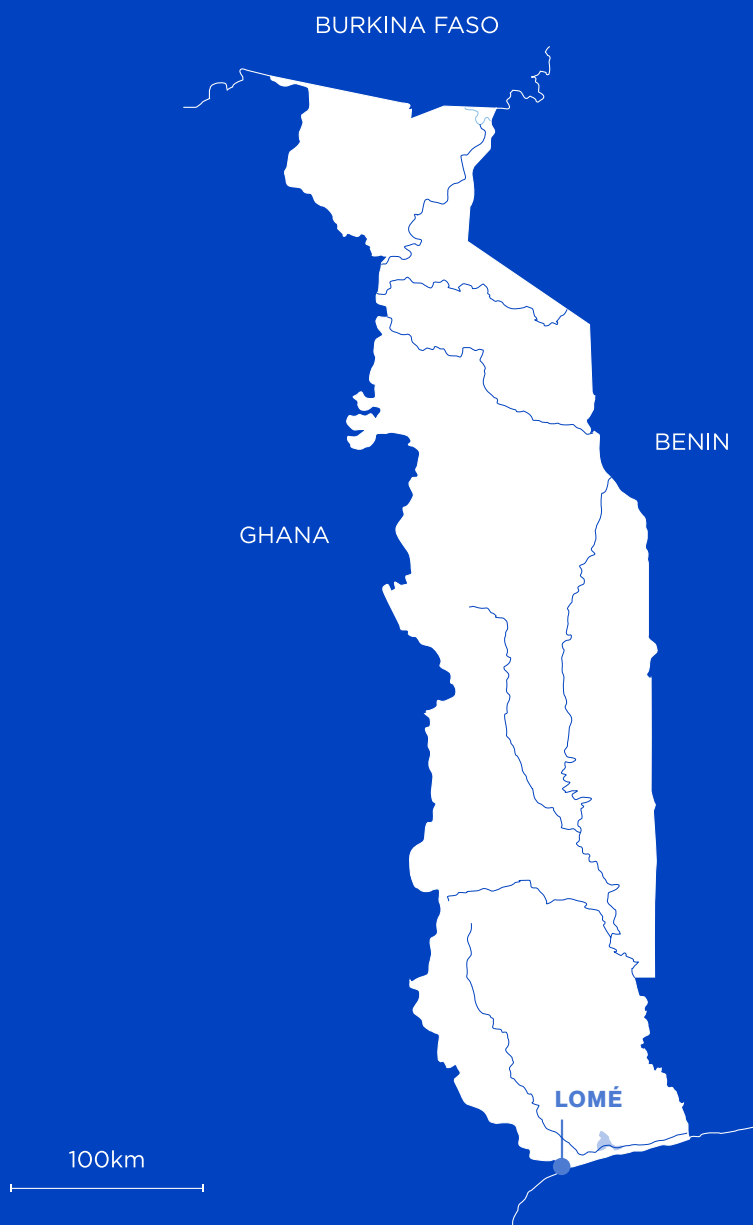


Country Handbook: Togo



Introduction



Travelling to see the work of Compassion and our local church partners firsthand is an unforgettable experience. On this trip, you'll see for yourself how children are known, loved and protected by their church communities and are being released from poverty in Jesus' name.

This Country Handbook is designed to start preparing you for your trip to Togo. Please read it before you depart, and we'd also recommend that you keep it handy for easy reference.

We pray that God will bless your time in Togo!

Country Information



Togo is known for its beaches, markets and iconic mud tower-houses, called Takienta. The name of the Batammariba people, who built these houses, translates to 'those who are the real architects of earth'.

Main languages:

French, plus the African languages of Ewe and Mina (south) and Kabye and Dagomba (north)

Climate:

Tropical (warm temperatures year-round)

Main religions:

Christian (42.3%), folk religion (36.9%), Muslim (14%)

Currency:

West African CFA Franc



Compassion in Togo

Compassion has been working to release children from poverty in Jesus' name in Togo since 2007. 45.5 per cent of people live below the poverty line.

Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program is tailored to be age-appropriate for each child.

Children **AGED 1 TO 3** receive home-based care.

Children and youth **AGED 3 AND OLDER** attend their local Compassion on weekends, usually on Saturdays.



For more information on Togo, scan the QR code or visit: compassion.com.au/where-we-work/togo

Compassion assisted children in Togo typically attend program activities at their local child development centres. Here is an example of what a typical program day looks like:

9:00am - A time of prayer and devotion.

9:30am - Spiritual lessons, in which children sing songs and learn Bible stories.

10:30am - Break time where children can play in a safe environment and develop friendships.

11:00am - Social-emotional lessons ranging from conflict resolution to developing healthy self-esteem and a godly character. Children often come from challenging home environments and are taught social and personal skills.

12:00pm - Lunch and social time. A typical lunch generally consists of rice with sauce and either chicken, fish or meat, with seasonal fruit. Food is usually provided as children don't always have access to nutritionally balanced meals at home.

1:00pm - Health lessons, in which children learn practical health and hygiene tips, including how to prevent malaria and HIV.

2:00pm - Letter writing and career planning. Older children work with local staff to identify their strengths and interests and set goals for their future.

In addition to Compassion's curriculum, children have opportunities to participate in activities such as learning musical instruments, choreography, choir, art, football and puzzles. Parents and caregivers are offered parenting classes.

Cultural Considerations



Clothing

- **Men:** T-shirts, jeans and knee-length shorts are acceptable, but please wear long pants when visiting local church partners.
- **Women:** Jeans, dresses and t-shirts are acceptable. Shorts are acceptable for some activities but not when visiting local church partners. Please dress modestly, ensuring your knees and shoulders are covered. Earrings are acceptable, but other piercings should be avoided.

Greetings

- Shaking hands and waving are appropriate gestures when you meet someone.
- Togolese address elderly people in a formal manner using their title (e.g., Monsieur) and their surname.
- Togolese welcome people by saying 'woezon' or 'bon arriv  '. People normally respond to this greeting by saying 'yooo' or 'merci', respectively.

Language

- Useful French phrases:

Hello: Bonjour

How are you?   a va?

My name is: Je m'appelle...

Do you speak English? Parlez-vous anglais?

I don't understand: Je ne comprends pas

God bless you: Que Dieu vous b  nisse

Please: S'il vous pla  t

Thank you: Merci

Yes: Oui

No: Non

Body language

- Couples may hold hands, but it is best to avoid further affection.
- Beyond handshakes or hugs when saying hello or goodbye, other physical affection should be avoided.

Eating and drinking

- If you are eating in a family's home, it is polite to let the host serve you. In some places, the men are served first.
- Most people pray before eating meals.

Security

- Be mindful not to show phones, cameras or valuable jewellery while in public.
- Please ask permission before you photograph any local people. This can include photos taken from a moving vehicle, so be sure to check with your driver or Trips and Visits Specialist first.

Emergency contact information:

Local emergency number: 117

Compassion Togo office: 011-228-22-26-06-16

Australian Embassy (closest consular assistance is in Ghana):
+233 302 216 400



Key Challenges and Prayer Points

35.7 per cent of Togolese children between the ages of five and 14 are involved in child labour. Forced child labour occurs in the agricultural sector, particularly on coffee, cocoa and cotton farms. Please pray for God's protection to be over children who are in vulnerable situations and wisdom for our local church partners who are supporting them.

Many children are suffering from malnutrition. According to the World Health Organisation, 22.3 per cent of children under 5 are experiencing stunted growth. Please pray for God's provision over families struggling to afford food and ask that our local church partners can continue to provide tailored care to help children recover.

Early marriage and pregnancy are prevalent in Togo, with one in four girls married before 18. This issue is closely secondary school completion rates. Please pray that more Togolese girls will have the opportunity to complete their education and ask for God to bless the work of our local church partners who are seeking to address these inequalities.



**SEARCH FOR
COMPASSIONAU**

COMPASSION AUSTRALIA

PO Box 1, Hunter Region MC NSW 2310
Phone: 1300 22 44 53 | +612 49 35 5000
Fundraising Authority: CFN10658
ABN 67 001 692 566

compassion.com.au

Christ-centred | Child-focused | Church-based