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COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT ON YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES IN TOGO

OVERVIEW

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerability has increased significantly among persons with disabilities. Youth with disabilities are additionally disadvantaged in their search for work because they have not had access to education or vocational training. In Togo, people with disabilities experience stigma and discrimination, which further impacts their livelihoods. In order to strengthen employability and job creation for young people with disabilities, especially girls and women, USAID is supporting the Fédération Togolaise des Associations des Personnes Handicapées (FETAPH). This activity stems from the recommendations of a study that FETAPH carried out in 2021 on the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.

PRIORITIES

INCREASE ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING

FETAPH supported the Ministry of Technical Education to adapt vocational curricula for people with sensory disabilities. Moreover, FETAPH conducted sensitization workshops with employers to promote hiring people with disabilities. FETAPH has then worked with these employers and others to provide equipment and training placements to people with disabilities.

CREATE MECHANISMS TO FACILITATE EMPLOYABILITY

FETAPH works to improve employability by working with microfinancing institutions to provide equitable financing opportunities, conducting entrepreneurship training, and funding individual business plans. FETAPH has also worked to identify employment opportunities for people with disabilities and to label companies as disability-friendly if they provide an inclusive and accessible environment.

ADVOCATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL FUND TO SUPPORT TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

In order to advocate that the Togolese government creates a national fund, FETAPH will analyze the situation through a feasibility study and propose a mechanism to effectively and sustainably support the professional development of people with disability.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- People with disabilities are empowered through accredited vocational training to improve their employability
- People with disabilities are empowered to set up their own enterprises to become financially independent
- Sensitized private sector companies increased employment opportunities to people with disabilities
- Microfinance institutions increased financial support to people with disabilities to set up their own businesses

PROGRAM INFORMATION

GOAL: REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS LINKED TO COVID-19 ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AND THE IMPOVERISHMENT OF THEIR FAMILIES IN THREE MAJOR CITIES IN TOGO, AND STRENGTHEN EMPLOYABILITY AND JOB CREATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR RESILIENCE TO COVID-19 IN THESE CITIES

LIFE OF PROGRAM: MAY 2022 – MAY 2024

TOTAL USAID FUNDING: \$532,365

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: DAPAONG, KARA AND ATAKPAMÉ LOCATED IN TOGO

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: FÉDÉRATION TOGOLAISE DES ASSOCIATIONS DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES