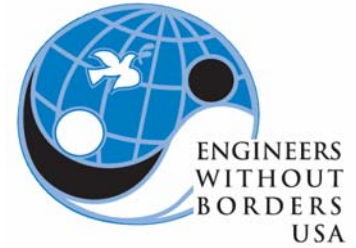


# Sanitation Program

*Agou Avedze, Togo*



**Project Cost**

**\$34,000+**

**Start-up Costs**

**\$18,500**

**Funds Needed**

**\$15,500+**



[www.ewbdenver.org](http://www.ewbdenver.org)

## Background

Located in the Plateau region in Southern Togo, Africa, the rural village of Agou Avedze, (population ~600) had no known organized plan for the development of their community and lacked the infrastructure to meet their basic human needs.

The people of Avedje voiced their concern the Peace Corps Volunteer, Brett Daily, about the limited access to water during the dry seasons. In early 2006, Brett sought out external help on creating a water project for the village. A member from the Denver Chapter was contacted, and in October 2006 the Agou Avedje Togo project became an official EWB-USA project.



Engineers Without Borders™-USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life.

Website: [www.ewb-usa.org](http://www.ewb-usa.org)

Phone: 303-772-2723

*Photograph: 90% complete demonstration Fossa Alterna EcoSan latrine*

## The Need

Shallow hand dug community drinking wells are uncovered and poorly protected. During the dry season, wells reportedly run dry. No basic wastewater disposal system is present in the village. There is no electricity in the village. General health issues include malaria, poor water quality, heat and sun exposure, dehydration, yellow fever, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and nutritional concerns.

## The EWB-USA Response

### *Phase I: Assessment, Partner Negotiating and Planning (Oct 2006 to Sep 2007)*

The site assessment team conducted a baseline health assessment, tested water quality, performed a basic site survey, started a trusting working relationship with the village, and engaged a local in-country NGO willing to partner for the project. A Proposed Community Development Plan (PCDP) was created with contributions from Colorado School of Mines students. The "Demand-Response Approach" will be utilized for the duration of the long-term commitment to the community (5-10 years). With help from the partnering NGO, the PCDP was presented to the village in their local language. The village was asked to select priorities based on our recommendations, and they surprisingly chose Eco-San Latrine sanitation project which differed from their original water supply concern. Potters For Peace ceramic filters were also introduced to the village as a trial to determine willingness/effectiveness. ([www.pottersforpeace.org](http://www.pottersforpeace.org))

### *Phase II: Eco- Sanitation Latrine and water filter Implementation (Feb 2008 - ongoing)*

Two test latrines and one demonstration latrine were constructed – unit cost determined (US\$130). 135 ceramic filters were acquired from a Ghana workshop - Ceramica Tamakloe Ltd. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed, negotiated and signed between all key contributing partners.

### *Following Up*

The program objectives are to have complete community-wide home-owned EcoSan latrine and ceramic filter coverage (110 latrines and filters) by 2011. Monitoring and evaluation are ongoing.

## Moving Forward

The ultimate goal of EWB-USA Denver Chapter's presence in Agou Avedje Togo is to build the community's capacity – to provide the knowledge and education to empower the village by enhancing local, technical, managerial, and entrepreneurial skills. The EcoSan latrine project is the first of potentially many, more complex projects to address prevalent health and development issues. The potential for future productive agricultural use and economic benefits directly from the EcoSan compost is next, as well as continuing project priorities from the PCDP. The Denver Chapter will be working with other EWB-USA Chapters to meet the needs addressed in the PCDP.

**To learn more about this project:**

[www.ewbdenver.org](http://www.ewbdenver.org)

Link to Project Power Point

Contact [fahlincj@cdm.com](mailto:fahlincj@cdm.com) for more information