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Dennis Fierbach - Water for Life Initiative Director

Drilling Wells In A New Country

(Top)
Tony Zandl and
Togo's drilling team

(Bottom)
New rig for Togo

Helping break the cycle of disease for the people of Togo

Global Aid Network's (GAIN) experience with drilling water wells in Benin, Sudan and Tanzania has opened doors to provide disease-free water in a fourth African country - Togo.

Togo has a population of approximately 6.7 million, with almost 42% of the people between the ages of 0-14 years. This small, sub-Saharan economy is heavily dependent on both commercial and subsistence agriculture, which provides employment for 65% of the labor force. Yet, approximately one half of the population lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day.¹

Due to a lack of clean water, many Togolese are exposed to water-borne diseases such as bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid and many more.¹

Togo is located directly west of Benin and as a result, GAIN became aware of the need in this country for clean water. Through the generous gift of a GAIN donor, a rig was acquired from a well drilling company located in Langley, BC in December 2009 and soon after was sent to Togo.

While the rig was en-route, the Togolese drilling team of four were already well into their five-month training with the Benin drilling team.



Dennis Fierbach - Water for Life Initiative Director, and Eric Britton - Water for Life Initiative's Project Manager, returned to Africa in February 2010 to help secure the release of the rig from the port and receive the two government vehicles that were provided to carry out the project - a materials transport truck with a crane and a pickup truck to drive the drilling crew from village to village.

"This is exciting as it shows that the Government is working with us and has an investment in this project," shares Fierbach.

Within a few days of the rig being released, Tony Zandl, an affiliate staff member with GAIN, joined Dennis and Eric for ten days and helped set up the drilling rig as well as give some specific training on the new rig to the new crew.

Today, the Togo drilling team has completed their first well. GAIN's current

goal is to drill ten water wells by the end of 2010 and, in turn, bring hope, health, and a better future to approximately 10,000 people in Togo.

¹<https://www.cia.gov>
Additional background info - <http://en.wikipedia.org>

