



ECOWAS COMMISSION
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ECOWAS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE LAUNCH

Supporting People of Concern (PoC) in Togo





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January 26, 2026

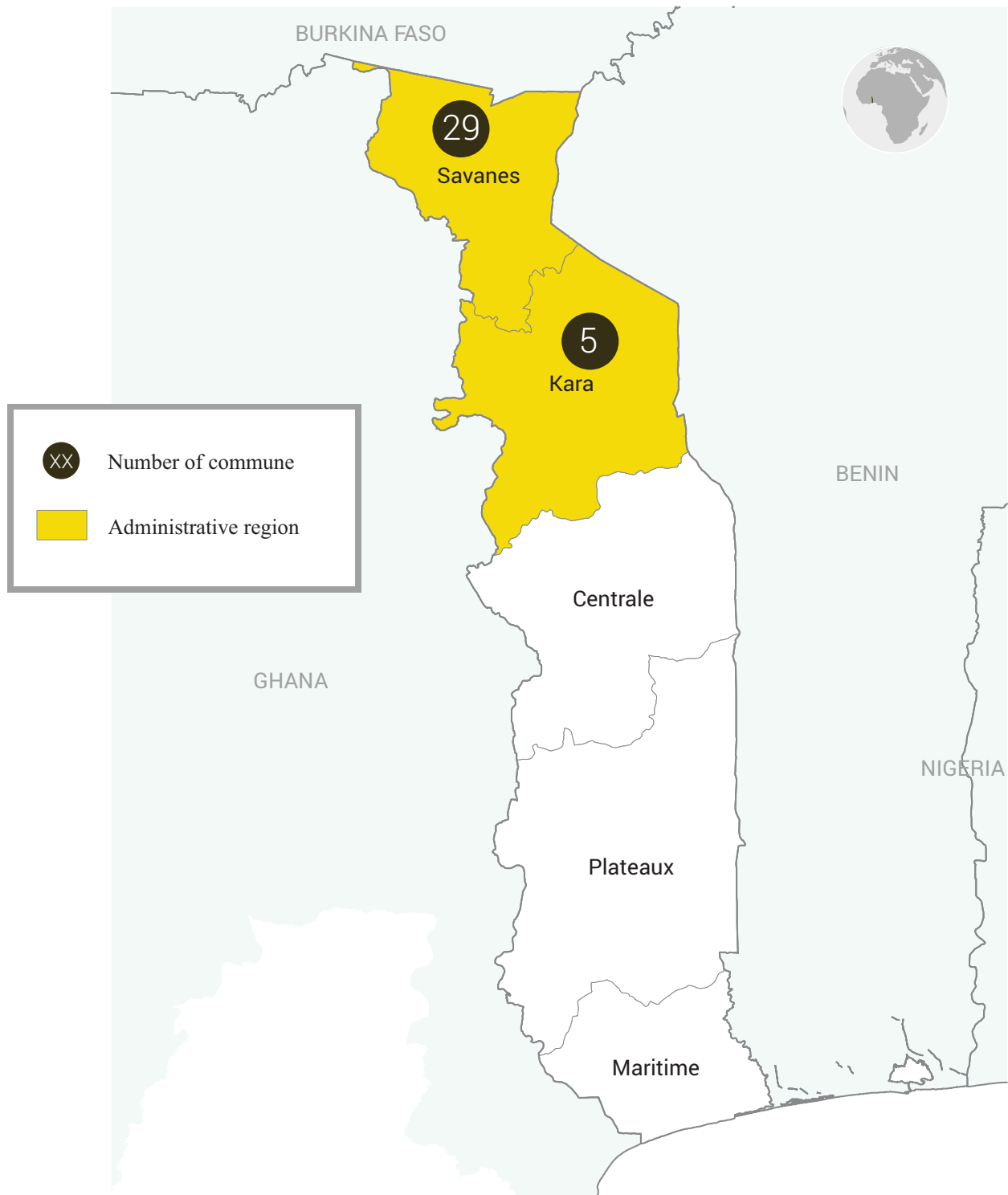


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Continue to be champions of humanitarian principles and do not waver in showcasing them, for we must ensure that no one is left behind in our pursuit of an ECOWAS of the people.

Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe

*Director, Humanitarian and Social Affairs,
ECOWAS Commission*





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1. Introduction

On January 26, 2026, the Government of Togo, working in close partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the World Food Programme (WFP), officially launched a humanitarian targeted assistance programme to support People of Concern, including internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host communities.

The launch ceremony, held in Lomé, marked a renewed and collective commitment to protecting human dignity, strengthen community resilience, and promote social cohesion amid rising humanitarian pressures in Northern Togo.

The event brought together senior national and regional leaders, including the Minister of Security and Civil Protection represented by the National Civil Protection Agency (ANPC), representatives of ECOWAS, and the Resident Representative and Country Director of WFP. Their joint presence underscored the shared responsibility of national authorities, regional institutions, and international partners to deliver timely, results-driven support in response to displacement and vulnerability in Northern Togo.



\$719,733

**Total
Budget**



10K IND
(2K HH)

**Target
Population**



Savannah and
Kara regions

**Geographic
Focus**



3

**Implementing
Partners**

2. Humanitarian Context



Togo continues to experience the effects of insecurity spilling over from the Sahel, driven by violent extremism, cross-border attacks, and intercommunal tensions. Since 2021, these dynamics have led to rising displacement and increasing strain on already vulnerable communities in the Savannah and Kara regions.

As of mid-2025, Togo was hosting more than 45,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from Burkina Faso, alongside approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons. These populations face persistent challenges related to food insecurity, limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation, and fragile livelihoods. Host communities, despite showing remarkable solidarity, are under significant pressure as they share scarce resources and basic services with displaced families.

In response to this evolving context, the newly launched program responds to both immediate humanitarian needs and the longer-term requirement to stabilize communities and strengthen resilience, laying the foundation for safer, more self-reliant, and socially cohesive communities.

3. Key Messages from the Launch

Government of Togo

Speaking on behalf of the Government, the representative of the Minister of Security and Civil Protection emphasized that the protection of populations remains a national priority and a central pillar of public policy. The Government reaffirmed its commitment to a structured response that integrates security measures, humanitarian assistance, and development actions. Emphasis was placed on leaving no one behind and on strengthening social cohesion in affected regions. The Government also expressed its gratitude to ECOWAS for sustained financial and technical support, noting that this project builds on earlier emergency assistance provided after the 2022 floods while aligning with forward-looking interventions designed to enhance resilience and stability.

KADJA Hodabalo

Pitemnèwè Commissaire divisionnaire de Police

ECOWAS Comission

The ECOWAS representative highlighted the regional dimension of displacement and the importance of solidarity among Member States in responding to its humanitarian and protection implications. Emphasis was placed on delivering balanced support to both displaced populations and the host communities, recognizing that hosts often bear a disproportionate share of the burden. ECOWAS reaffirmed its commitment to upholding human dignity, accurate documentation of displaced persons, and modern, people-centered humanitarian approaches that promote choice, inclusion, and local ownership. The call to action highlighted the need for strong coordination, avoidance of duplication and deliberate outreach, ensuring that assistance is equitable, accountable, and results-driven.

Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe

Director, Humanitarian and Social Affairs, ECOWAS Commission

World Food Programme

The WFP Country Director described the project as a decisive step toward addressing the humanitarian consequences of forced displacement while laying the foundation for recovery, resilience, and long-term stability. WFP highlighted the extreme vulnerability of displaced families and host households, particularly women and children, and stressed the need for integrated solutions that simultaneously strengthen food security, water, and sanitation access, and sustainable livelihoods. Furthermore, the Country Director expressed deep appreciation for the financial support provided by ECOWAS and for the leadership of the Togolese authorities, alongside WFP's commitment to ensure rigorous, accountable, and effective implementation in close collaboration with national partners.

Mme Odette KISHABAGA

World Food Programme (WFP)

4. Program Overview

This humanitarian initiative is made possible through the full financial support of the ECOWAS Commission, which committed a total budget of \$719,733 to ensure its implementation. On the ground, the National Civil Protection Agency (ANPC) provided operational leadership, ensuring timely and effective delivery of assistance to those most in need. The programme is designed to reach approximately 10,000 people across the Savannah and Kara regions, areas most affected by regional instability, with targeted support for 2,000 households, including families who have fled their homes as refugees, internally displaced persons, and the local host families who continue to share their limited resources in a spirit of solidarity.

At its core, the programme moves beyond temporary relief by carefully combining immediate life-saving assistance with pathway to long-term resilience. Investment in essential infrastructure through the construction of four boreholes and three sanitary facilities (latrines), are improving access to safe water and dignified sanitation, impacting public health system for the entire community. These durable solutions are complemented by the distribution of nutritious food, essential household items, and hygiene and dignity kits, helping vulnerable families protect their wellbeing and restore a sense of dignity in difficult times.



Looking ahead, the initiative prioritizes sustainable self-reliance and economic recovery. Five groups of vulnerable women and young people will receive specialized training for income-generating activities, alongside essential vocational tools and technical skills, to facilitate the establishment of micro-enterprises and small-scale trades. By strengthening livelihoods and expanding economic opportunity, the programme fosters long terms autonomy, resilience, and reduced dependence on negative coping mechanisms among affected populations.

5. Partnerships and Collaboration

The effectiveness of this programme is rooted in its partnership approach, bringing together national leadership, regional institutions, and humanitarian actors around a shared objective. The Government of Togo takes the lead, providing vital coordination through the ANPC and other national agencies to ensure the work stays on track. Meanwhile, ECOWAS provides the necessary funding and strategic vision to keep the project aligned with regional goals, and the WFP steps as an implementing partner with the technical expertise for timely, high-quality humanitarian response.

This collaborative operational model transcends the simple delivery of assistance, establishing a framework defined by transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability. Close engagement with local leadership and host communities ensures that interventions move beyond temporary relief to actively strengthen Togo's national capacity for social protection and care. Such deep-rooted cooperation guarantees that assistance is administered with the utmost respect for human dignity, providing tailored solutions that directly address the specific needs and priorities of the affected populations, thereby transforming short-term assistance into durable, community-centred impact.



6. Expected Impact and Challenges

The programme is designed to facilitate enhanced access to essential services, mitigate food insecurity, and revitalize the livelihoods of both displaced populations and host communities. Through the planned deployment of a multi-sectoral framework that integrates water and sanitation infrastructure, nutritional support, and strategic income-generation initiatives, the project aims to systematically reduce socio-economic vulnerability. These combined interventions are anticipated to serve as a critical foundation for long-term community resilience, regional stability and strengthened social cohesion across the affected areas.

At the same time, challenges remain, including insecurity in border areas, pressure on limited resources, and the evolving nature of displacement. The programme addresses these challenges through precise targeting of the most vulnerable, prioritization of women and youth, and close coordination among partners, enabling adaptive, context responsive implementation that sustains measurable impact overtime.



Togo, faithful to its values of solidarity, recognizes that the security of our populations is inextricably linked to how we care for those forced into displacement.

Lt. COL BAKA Yoma,
D.G of the National Civil protection Agency

7. Conclusion and Call to Action



The launch of this humanitarian assistance program represents more than the initiation of a new intervention. It reflects a shared commitment to human dignity, protection, and regional solidarity at a time when many families are facing profound uncertainty. Through collective effort, the Government of Togo, ECOWAS, and WFP have reaffirmed their determination to support populations affected by displacement while strengthening the resilience and stability of host communities.

Continued collaboration, sustained funding, and strong community engagement will be essential to ensure that the program delivers lasting, measureable impact. Partners are therefore called upon to maintain momentum to deepen collective action so that displaced families and host communities can move toward greater safety, stability, self-reliance, and renewed hope for the future.

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Today, we do not only launch a humanitarian project; we renew our commitment to protection and empowerment, transforming lives and restoring hope to build stronger, more resilient communities.

Amb Dewey Emily GRAY
Resident Representative,
ECOWAS Commission



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