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COUNTRY SITUATION

TOGO



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METHODOLOGY CHECKLIST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Legal analysis</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Documentary review</i>
<i>Verification by local contacts (experts + government) :</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Alternative care section</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Adoption section</i>

GENERAL SITUATION

Geographical location

Togo is one of the smallest countries in West Africa. The country is bordered to the north by Burkina Faso, to the east by Benin, to the west by Ghana and to the south by the Gulf of Guinea. Its capital is Lomé.

Political situation and governance

- On 6 May 2024, Togo adopted a [new constitution](#) establishing the Fifth Republic and moving from a presidential to a [parliamentary system](#).
- [Togo](#), formerly a German colony and then under French administration, gained independence in [1960](#).
- The [last presidential elections were](#) held in February 2020, and Faure Gnassingbé was re-elected President for the 4th time. At the end of April 2024, the Union for the Republic (Unir), the party in power since 2005, won the regional and legislative elections.
- Togo has five administrative regions and uses the civil law system.
- In the 2023 [Corruption Perceptions Index](#), Togo scored 31 points on a scale from 0 to 100, ranking 126th out of 180 countries.
- Togo has a rule of law index of 33.9, ranking 106th out of 153 countries worldwide. In its Rule of Law Index (2023), the [World Justice Project](#) ranked Togo 102nd out of 142 countries assessed, with a regional ranking of 14th out of 34.
- In Togo, [the independence of the judiciary](#) is not fully guaranteed. According to Freedom House, corruption is a significant and persistent problem.

Population

- [Togo's current population](#) is 9,262,571. In 2022, [48% of the population was under 18](#). In July 2024, [almost 60% of the population](#) was under 25.
- In 2023, the [total urban population](#) represented 44%. The rural population represented 56%.
- Togo has a negative migratory balance. In 2023, [net migration](#) is estimated at -2,000. Negative net migration can have a number of impacts on vulnerable families and children, such as a reduction in family and social support and a potential reduction or even loss of income for families who remain behind.
- As regards internal migration, in 2023, [63,546 people](#) were displaced, including 39,854 children, compared with 10,103 displaced people in 2022.
- The under-five mortality rate is falling every year: in 2022, it will be [60.38 deaths per 1,000 births, while in 2021](#) it will be 62.39 deaths per 1,000 births.
- The [birth rate](#) in 2022 was 31 births per 1,000 people. In 2022, [the fertility rate](#) was 4.2 births per woman. Togo's birth rate is [higher](#) than that of many other countries. As a result, Togo's population is particularly young, with a [median age of 18.5](#). Both the [birth rate](#) and [the fertility rate](#) fall slightly each year.
- French is the official language but many African languages are spoken in Togo, although they have no official legal status. Togo also has more than [40 ethnic groups](#).
- The legal age of marriage is 18, but dispensations can be granted by judges from the age of 16. In 2017, [25% of young girls](#) were married before the age of 18 and [6.4%](#) were married before the age of 15. These figures fall to [2.6%](#) for boys married before the age of 18. The [current revision of the Children's Code](#) aims to abolish these derogations in order to protect the best interests of the child.
- Between 2017 and 2020, statistics from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education show that during these three school years, [8,631 cases of pregnancy were recorded](#) across the country.

Economic and social situation

- Togo's socio-economic situation is characterised by solid economic growth in 2023, reaching [6.6% compared with 5.8% in 2022](#).



- In 2023, Togo's gross domestic product (GDP) [increased by 6.4%](#), reaching [9.17 billion US dollars](#).
- The [Human Development Index](#) (HDI) was 0.547 in 2022, placing Togo 163rd on the global Human Development Index and classifying it as a country with low human development. [Togo's HDI](#) has risen every year since [2008](#).
- According to the [EHCVM survey \(2018 - 2019\)](#), in 2019, the incidence of poverty in Togo was [45.5%](#) at national level, down from 53.7% in 2017. However, the [level of poverty is twice as high](#) in rural areas (58.8%) as in urban areas (26.5%). According to [UNICEF \(COAR 2023\)](#), [the multidimensional child poverty rate](#) is high (51%), with significant disparities between rural areas (50.1%) and urban areas (17.7%).
- Inequality across Togo has been falling since 2019. Indeed, in 2021, Togo's Gini coefficient index was [37.9](#), compared with [47.9](#) in 2019. However, inequality in Togo remains high. For example, according to [UNICEF \(COAR 2023\)](#), more than 57% of urban households reported having a water source inside their concessions, compared with 17% in rural areas, and 83.1% have access to toilets or latrines, compared with 38.2% in rural areas.
- The [Social Safety Nets and Basic Services project](#) (FSB) in Togo, funded by the International Development Association (IDA), has provided cash transfers to more than 60,000 extremely vulnerable households, including 40,309 women. In September 2023, additional funding supported a further 64,000 households. A new phase, financed by the World Bank, Agence Française de Développement and the Togolese government, aims to help 125,000 vulnerable households. In June 2023, [the World Bank](#) allocated an additional \$100 million to extend cash transfers to all households in extreme poverty as part of the [new Transformative Social Assistance for Resilience in Togo programme](#) (ASTRE). The programme aims to help 1.24 million people escape poverty by 2029.

Children's rights

- **Birth registration:** In Togo, [22% of children did](#) not have a birth certificate in 2022. This proportion rises to 31% in rural areas, [according to UNICEF](#).
- **Violence against children and adolescents (C&A):** Despite the absence of official statistics, physical violence, disciplinary measures and corporal punishment against children [persist in Togo](#). Between 2020 and 2022, [2,762 child victims of violence](#) were cared for, including 1,282 girls. According to the [MICS6 2017 as of October 2019](#), 91.8% of children aged between 1 and 14 were subjected to corporal punishment or psychological aggression by their guardian in the last month.
- **Voodoo convents:** is a [reality in Togo](#). In recent years, the authorities have worked with traditional chiefs to reduce the number of children in these convents. Between 2020 and 2022, [846 children](#) were withdrawn from voodoo convents to attend school or receive vocational training, and [367 cases](#) of so-called witch children, including 149 girls, were recorded.
- **Child labour:** still widespread, particularly in agriculture, domestic work and the informal sectors. However, in 2020, [Togo adopted a decree](#) determining the dangerous work prohibited to children and taking into account the new forms of child labour, as well as drawing up a national action plan to combat the worst forms of child labour (2020-2024).

CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE AND ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS

Applicable laws and policies and competent authorities

- Relevant articles of the [Constitution](#): articles 31, 35 and 36.
- **Children's Code:** In 2007, Togo adopted a Children's Code ([Law no. 2007-017](#)), which constitutes the main legal basis for the protection of children's rights. A review of this code was launched in 2020 and is still ongoing.
- **Personal and Family Code:** The 1980 Personal and Family Code was amended in 2012 and 2014.
- [Law no. 2004-005 of 23 April 2004](#) on the social protection of people with disabilities.



- [Decree no. 2010-100/PR](#) of 4 August 2010 setting the norms and standards applicable to care and protection facilities for vulnerable children in Togo.
- Order No. 028/MASPFA/CAB/SG of 5 October 2016 on the creation, allocation and functioning of the national consultation framework for child protection stakeholders (CNCAPÉ). This framework brings together regional and prefectural representatives of ministerial departments, civil society organisations (CSOs) and technical and financial partners (TFPs) and facilitates the coordination of child protection actions at all operational levels ([CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6](#), 2023, page 8).
- **National Child Welfare Policy (PNBE 2019-2030)**: This new policy, which replaces the 2008 National Child Protection Policy deemed obsolete, takes into account all child protection issues, in particular by seeking to prevent children's fragility by strengthening the capacity of families and communities, improving care for vulnerable children and families, and ensuring better protection for children by promoting endogenous practices. It focuses on 3 strategic areas: promoting the protection of children and families, promoting child survival, birth registration and education, and improving governance in the child protection sub-sector.
- The following are the competent authorities:
- **[Ministère de l'Action Sociale, de la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Alphabétisation \(MASPFA\) \(Ministry of Social Action, Promotion of Women and Alphabetisation\)](#)** : This ministry oversees child protection services, including alternative care.
 - **[Direction Générale de la Protection de l'Enfance \(DGPE\) \(Child Protection Department\)](#)** : This department coordinates child protection policies and programmes and supervises structures for the care and protection of vulnerable children.
 - **[Direction de la prévention des situations de vulnérabilité \(Department for the prevention of situations of vulnerability\)](#)**: a department within the DGPE of the Ministère de l'Action sociale de la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Alphabétisation (Ministry for Social Action, the Advancement of Women and Alphabetisation), responsible for developing and implementing strategies, programmes and projects aimed at preventing the vulnerability of children, and for raising public awareness. This authority is competent to take measures to prevent separation, such as support measures.
 - **[Direction de l'assistance à l'enfant en difficulté \(Department for Assistance to Children in Difficulty\)](#)**: a department within the DGPE of the Ministère de l'Action sociale de la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Alphabétisation, responsible for programmes and strategies relating to the care of children in difficulty and vulnerable children, including drawing up a list of centres and foster families for vulnerable children.
- **National Committee for the Rights of the Child**: Coordinates national child protection efforts, ensuring compliance with policies and standards.
- **Local Child Protection Committees (CLPE)**: These committees are present in several communities and play a role in monitoring, raising awareness and protecting children's rights.

Family support and prevention of unnecessary family separation

- In terms of support measures, both governmental and civil society, several initiatives and programmes have been put in place, such as the 10.8% increase (from 2019 to 2023) in budget allocations to the social sectors ([UNICEF COAR](#), 2023).
- The aim of the [Social Safety Nets and Basic Services project \(FSB\)](#) and the [new Transformative Social Assistance Programme for Resilience in Togo](#) (ASTRE) is to help extremely vulnerable households, as mentioned above (see Economic and social situation).
- According to a local contact, various support measures are available through the National Inclusive Finance Fund. In addition, the National Solidarity Agency, part of the Ministry of Social Action, is offering material, financial and food support. Additional social safety nets have also been set up by the Ministry of Social Action.
- Some NGOs also provide material and financial support. For example, [SOS Children's Villages' ARPEJ project](#), or Approche Régionale pour la Protection de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse, aims to strengthen the realisation of



children's rights by improving the care and protection of girls and boys in vulnerable situations. The project is being implemented in 18 localities in three countries: Togo, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. Other NGOs have set up awareness-raising and support programmes for vulnerable families, as well as day care centers to help families (e.g. [BICE](#) has developed two day care centers for young children, the [HALSA association](#) has set up projects to reintegrate children into school and support parenthood to prevent family separation, etc.).

- In [March 2024](#), Togo launched the validation of the National Programme for the Promotion of Positive Parenting. This programme aims to provide parents with the tools and skills they need to practise positive, non-violent parenting. It includes training workshops, advice and educational resources.

Gatekeeping mechanism and family reintegration

- In 2011, [Togo](#) set up an orientation and reference centre to provide emergency accommodation and monitoring for all children deprived of parental care or at risk of being so (the CROPESDI orientation and reference centre).
- Since 2012, CROPESDI has been admitting children to emergency shelters for 72 hours to determine appropriate long-term care. An interdisciplinary team provides support (advice, rehabilitation and reintegration) to children placed with foster families. CROPESDI also offers mediation services to children and families to facilitate reintegration.
- Article 58 of decree no. 2010-100/PR of 04 August 2010 stipulates that children for whom family reintegration is difficult or impossible must be directed to appropriate reception centres or placed with foster families. The Children's Judge decides on the placement of a child outside their family following a report or denunciation (art. 285 of the [Children's Code](#)) or on their own initiative (art. 276). It also has jurisdiction to issue declarations of judicial abandonment. Article 276 lists the situations that may lead to placement or an educational measure, which are detailed in articles 277 to 284 of the same code. After gathering information (arts. 286-290), the juvenile court judge may take a provisional decision to place the child under guardianship (arts. 191 et seq.), requiring the parents to contribute to the expenses. This arrangement ends when the child reaches the age of majority. The judge may also decide on other provisional measures, reviewed on a monthly basis (art. 287). Institutions taking in a child who has been abandoned or whose parents have been deprived of parental authority, or who is a victim of disaster, conflict, trafficking or violence, must take their case to the juvenile court judge or to the president of the court for a custody order (articles 40 and 56 of Decree no. 2010-100/PR of 04 August 2010). The State must provide the necessary protection and care for the child when the parents or guardian are unable to do so (art. 431 of the Children's Code).
- **Family reintegration:** According to article 63 of decree no. 2010-100/PR of 04 August 2010 setting the norms and standards applicable to reception and protection structures for vulnerable children in Togo, "When a child leaves the reception structure in order to be reintegrated, the centre must obtain an order from the children's judge or from the president of the court in the place where the centre is based, terminating the placement". According to a local ISS/IRC contact, some centres have a policy of reintegrating children into their families of origin. This information could not be confirmed for all centres, whether private or public. With regard to the private centres for which the ISS/IRC was able to obtain information, the reintegration process begins as soon as the child is admitted to the institution. This process includes three assessments:
 - One of the child in order to identify his strengths and weaknesses, his level of development and his perception of his situation;
 - One of the family of origin, in order to identify its capabilities and assess the reason(s) for the family's separation.
 - One of the community where the family lives, in order to identify the quality of relationships between families, the basic social services available and any risks.

Both internal and external professionals (social workers, educators, community members, etc.) are involved in the decision to reintegrate the child, based on the child's best interests. A child support plan includes material and financial support for the family, with the aim of strengthening their parenting skills and



supporting the production and securing of the resources needed to care for the reintegrated child. Some private centres carry out an annual assessment of the child's situation. This information could not be confirmed for all centres, whether public or private.

ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS

Competent authorities: [Direction de l'Assistance à l'Enfant en Difficulté \(Department for Assistance to Children in Difficulty\)](#) & [juvenile court judges](#).

Specific projects: RESAEV-TOGO is a network of organisations that care for vulnerable children in Togo and seeks to create a uniform set of standards and objectives for the main organisations that care for children at risk in Togo.

Main reasons : There are various reasons why a child may enter the child protection system. It is the juvenile court judge who intervenes to protect children at risk. These reasons include the loss of parents without family support, abandonment, neglect, vagrancy, a continuing lack of education and protection, regular ill-treatment, sexual exploitation (of boys or girls), sexual abuse, mendicity, economic exploitation, involvement in organised crime, exposure to conflict, use in armed conflict, and other practices harmful to their health or lives, as well as children who have been found or taken in.

Statistics: In 2022, [520 children](#) including 275 girls, benefited from alternative care services. According to the [Republic of Togo website](#), in January 2023, Togo had an estimated 7,000 orphans or children abandoned by their parents.

Kinship care

In Togo, informal care by family members or fostering (or confiage) is not recognised by law. However, confiage seems to be [a common cultural practice](#). When families are separated due to illness, divorce or death, or when children have to live elsewhere for educational reasons, it is customary and traditional for the community or extended family to look after the child.

In 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery warned that the practice of confiage in Togo "[often leads to violence and exploitation - the worst forms of child labour](#)".

Statistics: According to [El Hadji Mouhamadou Fadilou Di Ba, in 2021](#), the rate of children in care was between 19% and 22%.

Foster care

Legislation/policy: Article 292 of the [Children's Code](#), decree No. 2010-100/PR of 04 August 2010, [national guidelines for juvenile justice in Togo](#).

Types : Foster family placement is intended to be [transitional](#). Many NGOs are looking for foster families. On 4 June 2023, World Solidarity for the Disadvantaged (SMPDD) and the NGO Evit Bugale Ar Bed organised a meeting on the theme "[Why become a foster family](#)". The main aim of the meeting was to raise participants' awareness of the characteristics of foster families and to encourage them to take an interest in the problems of children in difficulty, in order to encourage them to become foster families.

Eligibility criteria for children : [Placement in a foster family](#) is considered when the parents' morality or ability to care for their child is uncertain, or in unstable or insecure family situations. This also includes street children



who have lost contact with their families. Children with disabilities may also be placed in foster care. Togo [highlights the](#) placement of a girl with a motor disability combined with a mental impairment.

The Togolese government has indicated that it is implementing a pilot project for foster families for a period of 5 years, with short-term placements ranging from 2 weeks to 2 months, as well as one-year placements for children placed in apprenticeships and abandoned children, who may eventually be offered for adoption ([CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6](#), 2023, page 7, paragraph 31). This is part of a desire to promote foster families.

On 30 January 2024, the Togolese government inaugurated a [Home for Children in Difficulty](#) (Maison d'accueil des Enfants en difficulté - MAED), which has [3 objectives](#): child protection, the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the reintegration of children in difficulty (children in conflict with the law, in police custody, born in prison, victims of the consequences of their parents' divorce, immigrants, or whose parents are detained and abandoned). The home can accommodate 30 children, including 12 girls. The MAED is a temporary solution (around 3 months) before the child is placed in a foster family. During this transit period, MAED provides medical and psychological care for the child, prepares the child for placement in a foster family, identifies and trains the foster families, sponsors the children and ensures that they go to school or learn a profession.

Requirements for carers: Information not available.

Monitoring and complaints mechanism : Information not available.

Support and follow-up: Information not available.

Statistics: In 2022, 142 children were taken in by 72 foster families. See also ([CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6](#), 2023, page 7, para 31 and 71).

Residential care

Legal/policy framework, including deinstitutionalisation: Decree no. 2010-100/PR and Children's Code.

According to the report "[Children without parental care in Africa](#)" by the African Union and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) (2023), institutional care in Togo is a preferred option for protecting vulnerable children. However, it should be mentioned that Togo has recently begun a gradual deinstitutionalisation of residential care facilities ([CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6](#), 2023, page 7, paragraphs 31 and 118). Following an analysis of residential care facilities in 2015, Togo closed 12 of them.

Types : Togo has both private and public residential care facilities.

Monitoring & complaints mechanism: Set up in 2011 under an agreement with MASPFA, UNICEF, Terre des Hommes and Plan International Togo, CROPEDSI offers a free [child protection helpline \(Allo 1011\)](#) and a shelter for vulnerable children.

The DGPE is responsible for inspecting facilities.

Support and follow-up: The Committee on the Rights of the Child expresses deep concern about the lack of support given to children leaving these facilities ([CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6](#), 2023, page 9, paragraph 31).

Statistics: Togo has more than [250 private institutions](#). In 2024 , there were [80 public childcare facilities](#).

Leaving care



Legislation/policy : Information not available.

Preparation for leaving the care system: Information not available.

Aftercare support: Information not available.

Focus on specific groups of children

Children with disabilities: According to data from the [Fédération Togolaise des Associations de Personnes Handicapées](#) (FETAPH), Togo has [13,282 children with disabilities](#), only [54% of](#) whom attend school.

Togolese law grants specific rights to people with disabilities ([Togolese law on the social protection of people with disabilities](#), article 258 of the [Children's Code](#)) and prohibits any discrimination based on disability (article 5 of the [Children's Code](#)). It also punishes any person who abandons their child, particularly because of their disability (articles 370 and 385 of the [Children's Code](#)). In addition, to meet the specific needs of children with disabilities, Togolese legislation establishes minimum standards of care in institutions responsible for the care and education of children with disabilities (article 242 of the [Children's Code](#) and the [2013 education sector plan, which incorporates inclusive education and, since 2015, a support service for the training and assessment of students with disabilities](#)).

In addition, in order to encourage the integration of children with disabilities into foster families, [the Togolese government](#) provides financial and material assistance to families taking in children with disabilities, offering support equivalent to double that provided to families taking in children without disabilities.

Child witches: [Togolese legislation does not contain](#) any specific provisions on child witches. [Awareness-raising](#) campaigns are being conducted among traditional chiefs and religious leaders in the prefectures on the fundamental rights of children. The Togolese government has asked traditional chiefs to sign [the Notsé declaration](#) committing them to protecting children from all harmful traditional practices. The results of the 10 years of implementation of the Notsé Declaration on the elimination of harmful social and cultural practices show that [158,615 people](#), including 82,713 women and 32,160 children, have been made aware of the need to abandon these harmful practices.

Comments of the SSI/CIR

Progress

The ISS/IRC welcomes the efforts made by the country, which has adopted various measures and initiatives aimed at improving the implementation of children's rights. Of particular note is the law introducing [free birth certificates](#) to encourage birth registration. [Togolese law](#) makes it a legal obligation to register births within 45 days. In 2023, the birth registration rate was [87%](#).

The country is to be congratulated on setting up financial aid programmes for vulnerable families ([ASTRE, school feeding policy](#)). Between 2019 and 2023, there was a significant improvement in the coverage of children by social protection programmes. The number of beneficiaries of social protection services for children and women, such as school canteens, health insurance for students, etc, rose from 1.92 million in 2022 to 2.05 million in 2023 ([UNICEF COAR 2023](#)). It is also worth highlighting the introduction of programmes to raise awareness of children's rights and [positive parenting](#) among the population.



The ISS/IRC also welcomes Togo's introduction of several measures to protect girls' rights and fight against early marriage and pregnancy, including a [national programme to combat teenage pregnancy and marriage 2023-2027](#). This includes strengthening laws, reducing school fees for girls, improving the school and family environment, and raising awareness to try to change mentalities. On [19 April 2022](#), a workshop in Danyi prefecture was launched to draw up community action plans against these phenomena, under the leadership of the Minister for Social Action.

The country is to be commended for its efforts regarding the ongoing [deinstitutionalisation process](#) and its efforts to promote foster families and try to increase their number ([CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6, 2023, page 7, paragraphs 31 and 118](#)).

In 2020, [the revision of the Children's Code](#) was launched and continues to this day.

Remaining challenges to be addressed

Unregistered births: Despite the introduction of the law making birth certificates free, the number of [unregistered births remains high](#), particularly in remote areas of the country.

Children with disabilities: The country is making real efforts to harmonise its legislation, but the treatment of children with disabilities in Togo is of concern to many international organisations and associations. The [Committee on People with Disabilities \(2023\)](#) has reported worrying reports of inhumane treatment resulting in the death of children and adults with disabilities.

It seems that the weight of [traditional practices](#) and [beliefs](#) remains a challenge to the proper implementation of children's rights, particularly with regard to informal kinship care, discrimination and violence against children, especially towards the most vulnerable groups ([CRC/C/TGO/5-6, 2022](#) and [CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6, 2023](#)).

It is also important to note that the Committee on the Rights of the Child expresses deep concern about the lack of support given to families to prevent separation and protect children deprived of parental care, as well as the fact that judges favour placement in institutions to the detriment of community-based solutions or placement in family environment ([CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6, 2023, page 9, paragraph 31](#)). Support for the prevention of family separation and for family reunification should be stepped up. The same applies to support and assistance when children leave care.

In recent years, the country has [adopted laws strengthening children's rights](#), but their implementation seems to be weakened by a lack of clear inspection, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ([CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6, 2023, page 9, paragraph 31](#)). According to [the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care](#) (paragraph 105), authorisations should be regularly reviewed by the competent authorities on the basis of standard criteria. If establishments are not rigorously inspected, monitored and evaluated, there is a high risk of unregistered structures operating without rules or respect for the minimum conditions necessary for children's development. In this respect, the Committee on the Rights of the Child highlights the evaluation of childcare facilities carried out by the Togolese government in 2015 and 2016 in relation to children deprived of a family. However, it expresses deep concern at the following situation: more than a third of the institutions assessed do not comply with the standards in force, particularly those relating to child protection. Moreover, some of these institutions continue to operate despite recommendations to close ([CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6, 2023, page 9, paragraph 31](#)).

With regard to the deinstitutionalisation process, BNCE-Togo stresses that the residential care centres need to be analysed again, as other centres have been created since the 2015 audit.



ADOPTION

Ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention on adoption: Togo has signed and ratified the 1993 Hague Convention on adoption. It came into force in Togo on 1 February 2010.

National laws/policies: The [Children's Code](#) (Law no. 2007-017 of 6 July 2007) is the main law dealing with adoption in Togo. The [Code of Persons and the Family](#) (law n°2014-019 of 17 November 2014) also deals with the subject. In addition, there are 3 fundamental decrees:

- the decree relating to the child adoption procedure in Togo (no. 2008-103/PR of 29 July 2008),
- the decree creating the National Committee for the Adoption of Children in Togo (CNAET) of 29 July 2008 (n°2008-104/PR), and
- the decree setting the norms and standards applicable to care and protection facilities for vulnerable children in Togo (n°2010-100/PR of 4 August 2010).

Lastly, 3 interministerial decrees relate to adoption:

- the inter-ministerial order setting the fees relating to the child adoption procedure in Togo (n°17/MASPFPEPA/MJ/MEF of 8 June 2009),
- the order setting the fees for the care of children proposed for intercountry adoption ([n°043/2018/MASPFA/CAB of 14 August 2018](#)),
- the order laying down the rules of procedure of the National Committee for the Adoption of Children in Togo (n°040/2022/MASPFA of 29 November 2022).

CENTRAL AUTHORITY

Comité National d'Adoption d'Enfants au Togo (CNAET)

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Source: [HCCH Authority](#).

FULL/SIMPLE ADOPTION

There are two types of adoption in Togo: **simple adoption** and **full adoption**. For the effects, see the "Adoption" section below.

Sources: [Code of Persons and Families](#), art. 217 et seq.; Art. 84-87, 92 et seq. of the [Children's Code](#); [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY

The CNAET ensures that the principle of subsidiarity is respected when allocating children. When social enquiries make it possible to locate the family of a child temporarily placed in a residential centre, orphanage or foster family, social workers, in collaboration with psychologists, are responsible for preparing the child

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psychologically for their return to their biological family. In the case of children declared abandoned by a judge, the adoption committee gives priority to Togolese families. If no Togolese family can meet the child's needs, the child is put forward for intercountry adoption.

Sources: [Children's Code](#), art. 102; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

CHILD ADOPTABILITY

The following children can be adopted:

- children for whom the father and mother or the family council have validly consented to the adoption,
- children declared abandoned by the juvenile court judge or the president of the court of first instance,
- children whose parents have been deprived of parental authority,
- children born of another union,
- children who are victims of natural disasters, armed conflict, civil unrest or other causes,
- refugee children permanently deprived of their family environment,
- foundlings and children whose father and mother are deceased (for simple adoption)

Adoptable children are those under the age of twelve or sixteen in the case of stepchildren. However, the president of the court or the competent judge may, in the best interests of the child and by reasoned decision, derogate from these age limits. There is no age requirement for simple adoption. For intercountry adoptions, girls and boys under the age of eighteen may be eligible for intercountry adoption.

The CNAET is responsible for assessing the adoptability of the child. The children's judge or the president of the court in the child's place of residence is competent to determine the child's adoptability.

According to the [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#), when a child is taken into care by an institution or a private individual, the latter must report this to the local structure of the Ministry responsible for child protection within 72 hours. The local social services, in collaboration with the police, will carry out an investigation to find the biological family. If, after one year, the child is considered abandoned, a report is drawn up and sent to the judge for a declaration of abandonment. Once declared, this information is communicated to the competent authorities, enabling the adoption committee to allocate the child to an approved adopter.

In the case of foundlings and foster children, efforts to trace their biological families involve [several stages](#):

1. **Rapid notification:** As soon as a child is taken in by an institution (such as an orphanage) or an individual, the case is reported to the local structure of the ministry responsible for child protection within 72 hours. This structure then informs the higher levels of its hierarchy.
2. **Inter-institutional collaboration:** The local social services work closely with the reception centre or orphanage concerned, as well as with the local police or gendarmerie.
3. **Systematic enquiries:** Together, they carry out in-depth enquiries and systematic searches to find the child's biological family. This includes register checks, neighbourhood enquiries, public announcements and other means of tracing.
4. **Duration of the investigation:** These searches continue for a period of 12 months, during which all possible avenues are explored to locate the child's biological family.
5. **Investigation report:** If, after a year of searching, the biological family still cannot be found, a social investigation report is drawn up. This report details the steps taken and the results obtained. If the family is found, the social workers work with the psychologists to prepare the child psychologically for reintegration into their biological family.



These efforts show a significant commitment on the part of the authorities to try to reunite children with their biological families before considering any other procedure.

For children declared abandoned, the [procedure for declaring abandonment](#) is divided into two phases: administrative and judicial.

Administrative phase: All carers must declare a fostered child to the ministry responsible for child protection within three days. This declaration must be written, scanned and recorded. Because of the difficulties on the ground, it is also recommended that the ministry responsible for child protection and the juvenile court judge be informed by telephone. In remote areas, the declaration can be made to the decentralised services.

Judicial phase: Several steps are required:

- **Provisional custody order:** This legally and temporarily entrusts custody of the child to a private individual or an approved organisation. This order is reviewed monthly after an investigation.
- **Specific procedures:** Approved childcare facilities can obtain a "standard temporary custody order" to be adapted when taking in a child. A private individual who has taken in a child may apply for a provisional custody order. If the private individual does not have a formal request, a request is drawn up for him or her and the same procedure is followed.

The provisional custody order is issued free of charge. The Children's Judge, or the President of the Court for the child's place of residence, is responsible for issuing the provisional placement order and the order declaring judicial abandonment ([HCCH Country Profile 2023](#)).

In addition, children whose parents have not come forward for more than one year may be declared abandoned by the juvenile court judge or by the President of the competent court of first instance. However, if a parent has asked to take charge of the child within the same period and this request is deemed to be in the child's best interests by the Children's Judge or the President of the Court of First Instance, the child will not be declared abandoned. The request for a declaration of abandonment may be made by the person or organisation that took in the child, by a social service or by the Public Prosecutor (Art. 73 and 278 of the [Children's Code](#)).

Sources: [Children's Code](#), arts. 68, 73, 90, 278, 287, 290 and 292; [Individual and Family Code](#), art. 218; Decree no. 2010-100/PR of 04 August 2010; [National guidelines for juvenile justice in Togo](#); [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with special needs are considered to be those who are in a vulnerable situation affecting their health, development or physical, moral or mental integrity, such as children suffering from a physical or mental disability, a serious or incurable congenital disease, HIV/AIDS, or those considered to be elderly.

To speed up the processing of files for children with special needs, Togo is implementing the practice of "**reverse flow**". These children's files are forwarded to the Adoption Agencies of the receiving countries, with which the adoption committee works closely. These organisations look for families willing to adopt these children.

The information that must appear in the report on the child or the documents that must be attached to it: the child's identity, history, physical and moral portrait, any steps taken to trace the child's biological family and the proposed solution for the child's development, etc.

Sources: [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#); [CNAET](#).

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS (PAPs)

Age limits



In the case of joint applications, at least one of the applicants must be aged over 30. In addition, there must be an age difference of at least 18 between the PAP and the child.

In the case of adoption of a stepchild, the minimum age difference required is ten years. This age difference may be reduced by dispensation of the President of the Court of First Instance.

Status

- Heterosexual married couples who are not legally separated;
- Single women ;
- Single men within the family and subject to the adoption committee's approval.

Residence or any other criteria indicated in the law

People who already have children, whether biological or adopted, must meet additional criteria. The biological child must be involved in his or her parents' adoption project. If a child has already been adopted, the adoption committee will request a report on the child's integration and adaptability, including the child's involvement in the new adoption procedure and the committee's opinion.

Sources: [Children's Code](#), art. 63, 64; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#) .

CONSENTS

Consent of the child

The child's consent must be sought. [National legislation](#) covers all situations where the child is considered to be in a position to give an informed opinion on the adoption decision concerning him or her.

In addition to the child's required consent, the adoption committee conducts individual and group interviews with the child and his or her biological parents to ensure that the child's wishes and opinions are taken into account in the procedure and that the adoption meets his or her needs. The child also receives support and advice from the social worker in charge of the social investigation and the adoption committee psychologist.

Consent of biological parents

The father and mother each consent to the adoption of their child. If one of the parents is deceased, deprived of parental authority, unknown or unable to express his or her wishes, the consent of the other parent is sufficient. If both parents are deceased, deprived of parental authority, unknown, unable to express their wishes or have lost their parental authority, consent is given by the family council after consultation with the person in charge of the child. This procedure also applies when the child's parentage has not been established.

With regard to international adoption, if a simple adoption has been granted in Togo and a full adoption is envisaged, the Togolese authorities require the consent of the biological family to the full adoption, which must be authenticated by a notary.

Consent to adoption in Togo must be given by **notarial deed**, either before the president of the court in the place of domicile or residence of the consenting party, or before a Togolese or foreign notary, or before a Togolese diplomatic or consular agent.

Withdrawal of consent

Consent to adoption may be revoked within 3 months, and this possibility must be explicitly mentioned in the consent document.



Consent may be withdrawn by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt addressed to the authority that originally received the consent. A simple verbal request to hand the child over to the parents may also constitute proof of withdrawal. If, at the end of 3 months, the consent has not been withdrawn, the parents may still recover the child, unless the child has already been placed for adoption or the adoption petition has been filed. If the person who took in the child refuses to return him or her, the parents may refer the matter to the president of the court, who will decide on the basis of the child's best interests whether to order the child's return. Surrendering the child automatically cancels the consent given to the adoption.

Sources: Children's Code, art. 69, 70 and 72; [Personal and Family Code](#), art. 219; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

PROCEDURE

The adoption procedure takes place in two phases: an **administrative phase** and a **judicial phase**.

PAPs file: Applicants for adoption (domestic and intercountry) must compile a file in French including the following documents:

- Adoption application form completed by PAPs ;
- Adoption authorisation issued by a competent authority in the receiving State (international adoption) or authorisation to adopt a child issued by the Minister responsible for child protection (national adoption);
- PAP report, including home study and other personal assessments;
- Passport's photocopies or other identity documents of PAPs ;
- Copies of PAPs' birth certificates ;
- Copies of birth certificates of children living with the PAPs, if applicable ;
- Copy of marriage certificate, divorce decree or death certificate, if applicable ;
- Medical certificate (after a medical examination) ;
- Proof of salary (payslip or income declaration issued by a notary after valuation of the PAPs assets and income);
- Information relating to the employment of PAPs, such as job title and employer;
- Extrait du casier judiciaire des PAPs ;
- 3 letters of recommendation ;
- Notarial deed of consent to adoption in the case of an adoption within the family.

Transmission of the file to the CNAET: Once the file has been completed, the CA of the PAPs' country of residence or their accredited body forwards the file to the CNAET. Under Togolese law, all exchanges of information on the progress of the procedure take place exclusively between the central authorities of the two countries. The CNAET examines the file and ensures that the PAPs meet the legal criteria and can provide for the child's needs.

Matching proposal: see section below.

Judicial phase: see section below.

Sources: [Children's Code](#), art. 76 et seq; Decree no. 2008-104/PR; Decree no. 2008-103/PR; [Order no. 043/2018/MASPFA/CAB of 14 August 2018](#); [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#); [MAI](#).

MATCHING

The CNAET proposes a match based on the needs and profile of the child proposed for adoption (with the exception of intra-family adoptions (child adopted by a member of his or her extended family) and adoptions of children with disabilities (see Children with special needs)). The matching decision is taken at an ordinary or special session of the CNAET in the presence of the heads of the reception centres and orphanages. This meeting

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is used to assess the family, analyse the child's needs and the environment that will best meet those needs (inclusive method involving various professionals). The CNAET makes proposals **within 3 months**.

All matching proposals made by the adoption committee are subject to assessment and decision by the minister responsible for child protection. PAPs have no way of knowing in advance which child will be allocated to them and in which structure the child will be received. The CNAET always forwards the children's files (social and medical reports, etc.) to the central authorities or the accredited bodies, which assess them before submitting proposals to the PAPs.

PAPs must accept or refuse this proposal in writing within 30 days and the PAPs' central adoption authority will forward it to the Togolese authorities. Reasons must be given for any refusal. If the refusal is justified, a new allocation proposal may be made. Once the acceptance has been sent to the Ministry for Social Action, the CNAET and the Central Authority of the receiving country exchange agreements to continue the procedure. Once the CNAET and the CA of the receiving State have exchanged agreements to continue the procedure, the Chairman of the Adoption Committee forwards the file to the President of the Court of First Instance of Lomé for the judicial phase.

Sources: Decree no. 2008-104/PR; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

Domestic adoption

Information not found.

Intercountry adoption

PAPs must stay in Togo personally for at **least 4 weeks**. As soon as they arrive, and with the authorisation of the CNAET, PAPs begin the probationary period, during which they meet: 1) the paediatrician, who presents the child's health check-up; 2) the psychologist, who provides information on the child's psychological development, and 3) the social worker.

Throughout this period, the Permanent Secretary and the manager of the residential centre where the child lives accompany the PAPs on a daily basis and inform them of the next steps. The CNAET also monitors the process. During the first week, the PAPs visit the centre every day to spend time with the child in his or her usual environment. In the second week, when the confidence assessment is conclusive, the PAPs can take the child for a walk in the city. In the third week, the PAPs pick up the child in the morning and bring him or her back to the centre in the evening. The child then starts sleeping with the adoptive parents and is brought back to the centre during the day. Finally, if all goes well, an official outing is organised for the child. The child spends the final week with his or her PAPs at home. After four weeks, the PAPs can leave the country with their child.

Sources: [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#); [Agence Française de l'Adoption \(AFA\)](#).

ADOPTION DECISION

The adoption decision is a **judicial decision**.

The CNAET sends the PAPs' adoption application to the court in the place of residence of the person wishing to adopt or, if the person is domiciled abroad, to the president of the court of first instance in Lomé. The presence of a lawyer is not required. This is when the preparation of the child on the site begins.

For AABs that have a representative in the country, the latter is advised to visit the child regularly to facilitate recognition of the parents once they have arrived.



The President of the Lomé Court of First Instance issues the adoption judgements, which are then forwarded to the Chairman of the Adoption Committee for transmission to the Minister for Child Protection, who issues the certificates of conformity for intercountry adoption. The Chairman of the Committee also asks the Consul of the child's country of destination to issue a visa for the child.

On expiry of the one-month appeal period, the judgment is declared final. The competent judge or the public prosecutor orders the registration of the adoption and the child's new surname(s) and forename(s) on the child's birth certificate within one month of the date on which the decision is no longer subject to appeal.

Appeal

Under Togolese law, appeals must be lodged within one month. Only the parties and the public prosecutor have jurisdiction.

Sources: [Children's Code](#), art. 78-80; [Adopting in Togo, France Diplomatie](#) .

REGISTRATION

Within one month of the date on which the adoption decision becomes final, a note of the adoption, together with the adopted person's new surname and forenames, is added to the margin of the latter's birth certificate, at the request of the public prosecutor or the competent court. If the adopted person was born abroad or if the place of birth is unknown, the decision is transcribed into the registers of the Lomé town hall within the same time limit.

Source: [Children's Code](#), art. 82.

ADOPTION EFFECTS

Rights

Whether the adoption is full or simple, the adopter or adopters have all the rights of parental authority over the adopted child, including the right to consent to the adopted child's marriage. In addition, the adopted child and his or her descendants have the same inheritance rights in the adopter's family as the child whose original filiation is established with regard to the adopter or adopters, unless expressly stipulated otherwise at the time of the simple adoption.

Full adoption confers on the child a filiation that replaces his or her biological filiation, subject to the prohibitions relating to marriage. Full adoption is irrevocable.

Simple adoption involves the integration of the adopted child into the adopter's family while retaining his or her rights, in particular hereditary rights and the obligation to support the family of origin. A simple adoption may be revoked at the request of the adopted child if there are serious grounds for doing so. If a simple adoption has been granted in Togo and a full adoption is envisaged, the Togolese authorities will require the consent of the biological family to the full adoption, which must be authenticated by a notary.

Name

Full adoption confers the adopter's name on the adopted person and simple adoption confers the adopter's name on the adopted person by adding it to his or her own name.

Nationality

Adoptees have the option of retaining their nationality subject to the nationality of the PAPs living abroad or the acquisition of the nationality of the receiving State.



Sources: [Children's Code](#), art. 84 et seq; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

POST-ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP

The post-adoption follow-up reports must be submitted **once a year** for the first 3 years of the adoption, the fourth report must be submitted **3 years after the third report**, the fifth report must be submitted **5 years after the fourth report and every 5 years** a report must be submitted starting with the fifth report. And this until the adoptee's 18th birthday. The reports must be drawn up in French by a social worker in the family's place of residence at the request of the accredited bodies or the central authority of the receiving country.

The absence of a post-adoption follow-up report may call into question the collaboration agreement between the CNAET and the central authority or the accredited bodies concerned. If the post-adoption monitoring reports submitted do not comply with Togo's requirements, an additional report will be requested.

Sources: Decree No. 2008-103/PR; Decree No. 2008-103/PR; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

ADOPTION BREAKDOWN

Togo has officially recorded only one case of adoption breakdown, which was an adoption within the family.

Source: [HCCH Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention \(2020\)](#).

SEARCH FOR ORIGINS

The CNAET manages the search for the origins of adopted children. The process includes an initial interview with the applicant, followed by a social investigation to seek additional information, and the assistance of a psychologist when the results are returned. If there are serious doubts about identity, a DNA test may be requested by the juvenile court judge, although this option is rare due to the high costs involved and the strict confidentiality requirements.

The CNAET is responsible for the conservation and confidentiality of information relating to the origins of adopted children, including the identity of biological parents and medical history. This information is kept indefinitely and may be accessible to the adopted person, his or her legal representative or other authorised persons, subject to certain conditions. When access to this information is granted, the CNAET offers psychological and social support to help adoptees through the process.

Finally, the Togolese government states that it applies rigorous practices to the management of sensitive information, avoiding as far as possible adoptions of children whose parentage is known, and ensuring a distinction between identifying and non-identifying information in order to protect the privacy of the persons concerned. The CNAET follows a specific procedure for dealing with requests for information from biological families, although these procedures are governed by rules designed to preserve the rights and confidentiality of adopted persons.

The Togolese government states that it has never encountered any proven cases of illicit practices when tracing the origins of adopted children. However, it is recommended that the central authorities of the States of origin and receiving States work together to determine responsibility in the event of disputes and, if necessary, to initiate legal proceedings. Victims of such practices should have access to justice and benefit from moral and financial compensation, as well as psychological support provided by state institutions.

Sources: Decree No. 2008-104/PR; [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#); [HCCH Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention \(2020\)](#).

ADOPTION ACCREDITED BODIES (AABs)



Local accredited bodies are not authorised in Togo.

Authorisation for foreign accredited adoption bodies is granted by the Minister responsible for child protection. The procedure for granting authorisation begins with a study of the application for collaboration, which must be submitted by the body and sent by the central authority of the body's country of origin. Each central authority is limited to submitting a maximum of two organisations. In addition, only States party to the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention may collaborate with Togo on intercountry adoption. Once granted, the authorisation to collaborate is valid for an indefinite period.

In 2023, only 14 accredited foreign organisations has been authorised to work with Togo.

Source: [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#).

SANCTIONS

To prevent illicit practices, Togo is focusing on raising awareness using all available media channels, as well as organising training courses to teach good practice to the people involved.

The CNAET works closely with the embassies/consulates of the receiving countries and regularly exchanges information on suspected adoption cases. The protection of the child is a priority in all measures taken. If necessary, cooperation with the receiving State concerned may be temporarily suspended. The perpetrators of illegal practices are prosecuted, and applications for illegal adoption are rejected. Finally, birth certificates are restored in accordance with the child's biological filiation, thus guaranteeing their integrity and legitimacy.

The Penal Code provides for severe penalties for the perpetrators and accomplices of child trafficking. They risk a prison sentence of 2 to 5 years and a fine of 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 CFA francs, or one of these two penalties. The penalty may vary depending on the specific circumstances. In addition, anyone involved in the sale of a child is liable to 5 to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 CFA francs. All these penalties may be doubled. Foreigners found guilty of these acts are banned from entering Togolese territory.

Source: [Children's Code](#), Decree No. 2008-104/PR, [HCCH Country Profile \(2023\)](#), [HCCH Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention \(2020\)](#).

COSTS

Fees for adoption are established and regulated by law in Togo.

According to the French Central Authority for Adoption, the cost of an adoption procedure in Togo in 2023 will be between €6,000 and €7,000.

A donation to the orphanage is authorised, at the discretion of the PAPs, at the end of the adoption procedure.

Sources: Interministerial order no. 017/MASPFPEPA/MJ/MEF; decree no. 2008-103/PR; [Agence Française de l'Adoption \(AFA\)](#).

STATISTICS

Between 2020 and 2022, 92 children, including 41 girls, were adopted.

Source: [CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6](#), 2023, page 7, para100.



Comments of the SSI/CIR

Progress

Togolese law attempts to provide a considerable framework for intercountry adoption. This includes specific decrees and laws governing the adoption procedure, the creation of the *Comité National d'Adoption d'Enfants au Togo* (CNAET), and the introduction of standards for childcare facilities.

The ISS/IRC is pleased that Togo is promoting the principle of subsidiarity, by encouraging domestic adoption before considering intercountry adoption. This approach aims to respect the child's best interests by trying to place him or her with a Togolese family first, if possible. In doing so, Togo follows the [HCCH Guide to Good Practice n.1](#) on the Implementation and Operation of the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention, which gives priority to domestic adoption or care options over intercountry adoption whenever possible. In this sense, domestic adoptions are on the rise ([academic article published in 2017](#)).

The ISS/IRC warmly welcomes Togo's efforts to [support and accompany PAPs](#) during the probationary period. This process is in line with international best practice, which recommends close support for adoptive parents throughout the procedure to minimise the risk of disruption for the child.

With regard to matching, the [HCCH Guide No. 1 to Good Practice](#) stresses the importance of this decision being a professional, multidisciplinary and qualitative decision taken as quickly as possible, on a case-by-case basis, after an in-depth study of the child's situation and potential families, and ensuring that the procedure does not harm the child unnecessarily. The ISS/IRC is pleased that the matching decision is taken at a meeting of the CNAET in the presence of those in charge of the child's residential centre, who are familiar with the child's profile and theoretical needs.

Finally, it seems important to emphasise the rigorous post-adoption follow-up that ensures the ongoing well-being of the adopted child. To this end, the country has introduced rigorous monitoring of adoptions, with regular reports required until the adopted child reaches the age of 18.

Togo has set up [awareness-raising campaigns](#) to prevent illicit adoption practices and tries to train the people involved in good practice. The country [works closely with embassies and consulates](#) to detect and prevent suspected cases of adoption.

Remaining challenges to be addressed

Togo's legal framework for adoption needs to be more detailed and more easily accessible in order to achieve greater transparency and legal certainty.

The adoption procedure in Togo currently provides for preparation of the child during the legal proceedings. As far as national adoption is concerned, this preparation of the child and the PAPs should take place upstream to ensure that all parties are well prepared.

Togo authorises PAPs and AABs to make donations to orphanages to improve the children's living conditions. AABs can make a donation at any time during the adoption procedure, while PAPs can only make a donation at the end of the procedure. The Togolese government states that donations are "voluntary and disinterested" ([HCCH Country Profile 2023](#)). The HCCH recommends vigilance and strict regulation of donations (["Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption", Chapter 6, paragraph 6.4](#)). It is important to emphasise that a donation made by PAPs in the context of an intercountry adoption represents a large amount compared with the



Togolese monthly salary ([the minimum monthly salary is 52,500 FCFA](#) or approximately 80 euros). This represents a risk of favouring adoption over other alternatives and then favouring intercountry adoption over national adoption. Moreover, such a practice raises a number of questions, particularly in terms of transparency, monitoring and potential foreign monetary dependence.

LEGISLATION

International instruments

	Signature (S) / Ratification (R) / Accession (A) / In force (F)
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)	26 January 1990 (S)/ 1 August 1990 (R)
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000)	15 November 2001 (S)
Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993)	12 October 2009 (A)/ 1 February 2010 (F)
Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996)	-
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)	23 March 2007 (S)/ 1 March 2011 (R)
Apostille Convention (1961)	-

Regional instruments

	Signature (S) / Ratification (R) / Accession (A) / In force (F)
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)	27 February 1992 (S)/ 5 May 1998 (R)

National legislation/regulations

	Language
Togolese Constitution (14 October 1992)	In French
Law no. 2004-005 of 23 April 2004 on the social protection of people with disabilities	In French
Law n°2007-017 of 06 July 2007 on the Children's Code	In French
Decree no. 2008-103/PR of 29 July 2008 on the child adoption procedure in Togo	In French
Decree no. 2008-104/PR of 29 July 2008 creating the National Committee for the Adoption of Children in Togo (CNAET)	In French
Act no. 2008-014 of 19 November 2008 approving the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption	In French
Interministerial order n° 017/MASPFPEPA/MJ/MEF of 08 June 2009 setting the fees relating to the child adoption procedure in Togo	In French



Decree no. 2010-100/PR setting the norms and standards applicable to care and protection facilities for vulnerable children in Togo	In French
Act No. 2012-014 of 06 July 2012 amending the Personal and Family Code, amended by Act No. 2014-019 of 17 November 2014.	In French
Order No. 028/MASPFA/CAB/SG of 5 October 2016 establishing, assigning and operating the national consultation framework for child protection stakeholders (CNSAPE)	In French
Interministerial Order No 043/2018/MASPFA/CAB of 14 August 2018 setting the fees for the care of children proposed for intercountry adoption	In French
National Child Welfare Policy (PNBE 2019-2030)	In French
Interministerial Order No 040/2022/MASPFA of 29 November 2022 laying down the rules of procedure of the National Committee for the Adoption of Children in Togo	In French
National guidelines for juvenile justice in Togo	In French

PARTICULARLY RELEVANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Periodic review by the CRC Committee

- Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child : Togo, [CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6](#), 11 October 2023.
- Replies by Togo to the list of issues concerning its fifth and sixth periodic reports: Togo, [CRC/C/TGO/RQ/5-6](#), 2 August 2023.
- Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Togo, [CRC/C/TGO/5-6](#), 10 November 2022.
- [Compte rendu de séance](#) of the CRC Committee on early marriage, domestic work and street children of 15 September 2023.

Other organisations

- [UNICEF Togo](#) - General information about children.
- [Hague Conference on Private International Law](#) - Information on the intercountry adoption procedure.
- [US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs](#) - Information on the intercountry adoption procedure.
- [MAI](#) - Information on the international adoption procedure.
- [Agence Française de l'Adoption \(AFA\)](#) - Information about intercountry adoption procedure..

