TOWARDS PUBLIC-PRIVATE-PEOPLE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOLVING THE PHENOMENON OF STREET CHILDREN IN LOME, TOGO

KOSSI SIKPISIKPI

MASTER OF ARTS

IN

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MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY

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EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

....CHAIRPERSON
(Nichan Singhaputargun, Ph. D.)

....ADVISOR
(Thanikun Chantra, Ph. D.)

....EXTERNAL EXAMINER
(Yared Akarapattananukul, Ph. D.)

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Author   Kossi Sikpisikpi

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Advisor   Thanikun Chantra, Ph. D.

ABSTRACT

In recent years, the city of Lomé in Togo has experienced a phenomenon of children living on the streets. They find themselves in a condition of precariousness and instability, which exposes them to social insecurity and dangers due to their poverty. Several studies explain the problems of street children in Lomé by the effects of poverty and the lack of adequate social services in certain localities without paying attention to the phenomena of urbanization, which impact greatly the migration of people towards urban environments, where they can search for better living conditions. This study, therefore, focuses on the effect of urbanization and the reasons for the phenomenon of street children in Lome and the challenges they face. Through the use of a qualitative method based on the interview of participants composed of public services, international organizations and private sectors, and community leaders as well as parents living in the city of Lomé, and based on secondary data from documents, this thesis addresses the different causes of this phenomenon of street children in Lomé with particular emphasis on the contribution of urbanization as one of the important causes of this phenomenon. The findings of this study showed that the weakness of the existing public-private-people partnership does not make it possible to provide lasting solutions to the needs of street children. The study proposes to revitalize the partnership between the different actors. The government must develop and implement a protection policy

that addresses the problems of children. Stakeholders must put in place basic social services at all levels to avoid the displacement of parents and children to the country's major cities. Reduce the level of poverty through job creation and vocational training centers for young people.

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ABBREVIATION AND SYMBOL

DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ILO	International Labor Organization
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
PND	Plan National de Developpement
PPPP	Public-Private-People Partnerships
TUC	Trades Union Congress
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Togo considered as a country of West Africa. At the administrative level, Togo is divided into six regions, which are the Maritime region, the Plateaux region, the Central region, the Kara region, the Savanes Region and Lome-Commune. These regions are subdivided into "prefectures" and "communities". The total national territory of Togo is 56,600 km², with an average density of 104 inhabitants / km². According to the National Census Council, Togo is experiencing a demographic evolution of its population which evolves from 5,884,568 inhabitants in 2006 to 6,191,155 inhabitants in 2010, and increases to 8,095,498 inhabitants in 2022, including 4,150,988 women and 3,944,510 men, with a demographic growth is 2.3% and an infant mortality rate estimated at 10.6% (National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic (NISED) Studies, 2023).

Togo has about 1,132,431 households whose size varies between 2 and 6 people per family (Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity, 2011). According to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (2014), between 2011 and 2017, the poverty rate of Togo decreased from 58.7% to 53.5%, meaning that 200,000 more people are predicted to be living in poverty in 2017 than in 2011. Two-thirds of the people in rural areas live in poverty, making it an even more pervasive issue. Because poorer families have more children, the percentage of children living in poverty (60.4%) is greater than that of the general population. Child multidimensional poverty is also higher than financial poverty, with 84.2% of kids experiencing at least one deprivation in a category that is essential to their development. According to the Basic Well-being Indicators Questionnaire (QUIBB) (2006), three out of four households are home to at least one erson under the age of 18. One in five children (22%) or 624,586 children live with

only one of their two parents. This phenomenon concerns more children in urban areas as 25% of children against 20% in rural areas and children from more privileged households 27% against 18% of children from poor households (Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity, 2011). A Togolese family includes an average of 4.5 persons, of which over half (46%) are children under the age of 15 and 28% are headed by women, according to the 2013-2014 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (2014). Overall, 81% of males and 52% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 are literate.

Accelerated urbanization raises a number of concerns that are likely to have an effect on the degree of protection provided to children, such as a decrease in the accessibility of basic social services like essential health care, education, energy, the social protection system, security, housing, and mobility in the face of population pressure, the growth of slums and precarious housing, the fraying of the family and community fabric, and the expansion of vulnerable situations. Moreover, the unprotected children can expose to activities like drug use that can harm their health and inappropriate sexual activity, as well as the risks of substance abuse (Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity, 2011).

The family is the first circle of protection for the child. The Togolese still aspire to a large number of descendants, even if too many dependent children are recognized as a factor of vulnerability, including in rural areas where income from the land has declined. In the current economic and social context, the family unit is subject to strong tensions which lead to the instability of marital bonds, higher risks of domestic violence, a lack of parental authority, difficulties in supervising and monitoring children. A growing number of children, particularly from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, live in blended families, where the relationship between parents-in-law and child can be a source of misunderstanding, conflict or violence. The organization and structure of society may be the cause of the social ill known as street children and its causes. In fact, experts and social science researchers have frequently shown that a youngster only reaches this stage when his education or socialization is failing. And the primary culprits in this situation are the parents, followed by the entire family and society as a whole (Djonoukou, 2006).

Today, millions of youngsters live on the streets across the world. More than 150 million children live on the streets as a result of domestic abuse, parental death,

family breakup, war, natural catastrophes, and low socioeconomic levels (Shrivastava et al., 2016). In order for a child to reach his or her full potential in terms of academic success, financial security, and healthy attachments and practices, Panter-Brick (2000) argues that a child must have a safe and secure environment as well as loving parents. According to the United Nations special representative of the secretary-general on violence against children (SRSG, 2021), the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides every child the right to be free from violence and to the best possible mental health. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to putting an end to all kinds of violence and promoting mental health and well-being. Both the Convention and the 2030 Agenda are critical to ensuring that the foundations for good mental health of vulnerable children are in place (SRSG, 2021).

The issue of street children in Togo was highlighted in the early 1975s, late after the country's independence in 1960 and with the establishment of the social movement of strong urbanization and spatial urbanization. The problem of children living on the streets first occurred in major African towns such as Nairobi of Kenya, Accra of Ghana, and Addis Abeba of Ethiopia in the 1960s, but authorities and the general public only became aware of it much later. This epidemic of street children is caused by marginalization, family economic circumstances, a lack of job, poor parental income, and divorces. According to the United Nations Organization for Children, the problem of street children was not previously severe, but nowadays this problem has grown considerably (Marguemt, 1999).

The social and economic evolution experienced by the whole globe with its diversity has not been favorable for Africa, in particular the emerging countries. Thus, at key crossroads in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, and Togo, the youngsters aged 9 to 14 years old are found standing in stations begging for money from automobile and motorbike passengers to cover their daily necessities (Temin et al., 2013). These vulnerable youngsters may conclude their days behind sheds, displays of products, or along the walls in order to spend the night. Anything may happen to these youngsters in this scenario, including exposure to violence from their siblings or strangers, sexual harassment, and incidences of sexual abuse (Lang & Frenzel, 1988).

In reality, the social structure into which children are born drives disadvantaged and underprivileged children to battle for existence and renders them victims. Their family could not satisfy their basic needs and requirements. As a result, a huge proportion of them became street children. The French sociologist Wacquant (1998) and Iellatchitch et al. (2003), who tackled this subject, had a firm grasp on the phenomenon of inequality. Many children from low-income families are compelled to leave their homes and wind up in vulnerable situations because they are not protected or cared for properly. They begin to live on streets, railway stations, sidewalks, beneath flyovers, and so on, leaving their parents in these locales. More and more street youngsters are becoming part in this process over time.

The most pitiful of the many victims of contemporary city life is that of the street children. The country, acting as their foster parent, and society, acting as their guardians, are both held accountable for some of the conditions which contribute to the dependency, delinquency, and degradation of city children. The lack of a home, a safe environment, and an education cause these children to suffer collectively. Due to social marginalization, they are not included in the community (Hickey & Du Toit, 2013).

Today, it is difficult to overlook the increasing number of street children in developing nations (Cosgrove, 1990). Young people are migrating to cities as a result of socioeconomic restructuring, which has left families impoverished and forced them to scratch out a livelihood on the streets, growing urbanization, the limited governmental competence, and other causes (UNICEF, 2012). These helpless children remain homeless and need helps from every sector both government and non-government to lessen the phenomenon of street children in developing countries.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Uneven development affects vulnerable populations in developing countries, causing unequal distribution of infrastructure, lack of essential social services, and inadequate education and health facilities. This leads to poor living conditions for these populations, particularly in cities, affecting children's living conditions. The displacement of poor populations is particularly prevalent in developing countries,

causing negative impacts on their well-being. Unequal development impacts populations' living conditions, including children who live and work on the streets. Street children, often vulnerable due to poverty, armed conflict, violence, or family issues, are forced to choose public locations like marketplaces and landfills. UNICEF estimates over 100 million street children globally, but their exact number is difficult to determine (Human Rights Council, 2012).

Similarly, Togo, a developing country in West Africa, is also facing the phenomenon of street children as a result of urbanization and uneven development. On the one hand, Togo has institutional and statutory structures in place to assist child protection. These include worldwide and national legal instruments, as well as platforms for coordinating efforts to safeguard children and adolescents. The improvements in health and education are observable evidence of the success this arsenal and other focused actions in their favor have made possible. On the other hand, despite these achievements, children in Togo, particularly those with disabilities, face a number of challenges. As a consequence, 36.5% of children aged 0 to 17 in 2018, rejected at least three of the six deprivations, while 84.2% defend at least one deprivation in a variety of areas of their well-being, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing, violence prevention, information, and education (Togo Government, 2018).

According to the Togo Demographic and Health Survey 2013-2014, 31% of children do not live with their biological parents. Parental poverty (60.4% of children live in low-income households in 2015), harmful sociocultural practices, the breakdown of family structures and community child protection, and a few innate disabilities are the primary causes of children's plights and vulnerabilities. Street children, early marriages, female genital mutilation, child labor, child mobility, violence and abuse, as well as children in legal trouble are all manifestations of these deprivations (Togo Government, 2018).

In order to address the many issues that still exist regarding the well-being of children, Togo's government put an effort to carry out, monitor, and evaluate coordinated efforts while taking into account the local context and engaging effective communities. Programs that provide a social safety net, such as the mechanism established is known as the National Fund for Inclusive Finance (FNFI). It comprises

of three items and intends to give financial means to young farmers and impoverished people to assist their income-generating activity at a very cheap rate with a simple condition of no guarantee or shared surety. These sub-products are: Access to Financial Services for Youth (AJSEF); Access to Financial Services for Farmers (AGRISEF); and Access to Financial Services for the Poor (APSEF). For the most vulnerable children through their parents or foster homes, the legal and institutional framework for children's protection, and the prevention of all vulnerable conditions are all addressed (Togo Government, 2018).

Togo has seen a sharp increase in the number of street kids in recent years. Over 6,000 Togolese youngsters were found living on the streets in 2015, with the majority of them ending up in Lomé. This number has increased to 10,000 by 2022. The main cause of this situation, according to those interested in protecting children's rights, is the nation's abhorrently rising poverty. Because of this, many children whose parents are unable to support them feel compelled to leave their homes in order to find food (Nations Unies Togo, 2022). According to Yves Abassa, project manager of the NGO-ANGE, a Togolese NGO that takes care of street children, some children are driven into the streets by their violent parents. These young children are living in commonplace, especially at markets and along beaches where they help fishermen, pick up rubbish, seek for irons, or even beg for food. One of the most important concerns is the children involvement in prostitution and theft. The outcomes of this situation are concerning. Because the bulk of these youngsters are used to living on the streets, it is unreasonable to expect them to accept being put in a home by various child welfare agencies. Some of them, who likely to be extremely aggressive, become dangers to society (ONG-ANGE, 2017).

In addition, according to a 2011 joint study by the International Labor Office (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 5,000 kids in Togo are homeless. But it is obvious that the trend has persisted notwithstanding the probe. If nothing is done, Togo may soon resemble the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where street children, sometimes referred to as microbes, establish gangs and engage in unspeakable acts of cruelty while plundering. The issue of street children is becoming increasingly worrisome in numerous African countries, particularly in big cities. According to Creuset-TOGO (2015), the number of street children in Togo is

increasing. Thousands of children may be seen playing on the streets of Togo's capital and other major cities, while exact figures are unclear. They are exceedingly frail and vulnerable to a range of problems. For example, a study by the non-governmental organization, Aid and Support Action for Drug Rehabilitation (ACAARD), in Togo revealed that more than 6,366 drug users, including 2,118 females, live in more than 40 ghettos, with 387 children, including 46 orphans without parents.

The issue of street children in Togo, and in Lomé in particular, expresses itself in a completely unexpected form since it is not a question of a marginality brought on by the rural exodus as it is in the majority of African cities. A study by the Youth in Action for Development (JAD) program found that just 11% of these children were native to the area. Similarly, Marguerat (1990), found that 12% of these children are from rural regions. As a result, street children are a long-standing and largely urban phenomena in Togo (Djonoukou, 2006).

The problem of street children continues to constitute a significant challenge for the city of Lomé despite the efforts of organizations and stakeholders involved in the protection and care of these young people in difficult circumstances. Government engagement in the development and implementation of projects and programs falls short of appropriately addressing the problems these young people face. Despite all of these efforts, these street children find it challenging to reintegrate into social and professional life, which makes it challenging for them to effectively contribute to the production and progress of the country. The author of "Contribution to an anthropological approach to the phenomenon of street children in togolese cities: case of Lomé, Djonoukou (2006), documents the worrying growth of the phenomenon of street children. In Togo today, the children of the street number in hundreds, having started as a tiny group of teens at the beginning of the 1960s.

In spite of the actions carried out by the government in the fight against this phenomenon of street children, the problem continues to grow in the cities throughout Lomé. Non-governmental organizations are trying to get involved in the eradication of this phenomenon but the observation on the field is something else. Despite the partnership between the State and certain Organizations working in the protection of children, such as UNICEF, all the localities affected by this problem are not covered in terms of action. This requires a new approach in the resolution of this problem in order

to involve all actors at the state level and international organizations as well as civil society organizations for a slightly more general participation in the process of resolving this phenomenon of street children in Togo.

This study makes it possible in the first part to analyze the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome and then to elucidate the interventions of the various actors, namely the government and the non-governmental organizations intervening in its resolution and finally to see what measure must be put in place, to revitalize the partnership to facilitate the resolution of this phenomenon of street children in Lomé.

1.3 Research Questions

In order to enable this study to achieve its objectives, it will proceed to answer the following questions:

1.3.1 What are the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo?

1.3.2 What are the governmental and non-governmental responses to the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo?

1.3.3 What should be the guidelines for Public-Private-People partnerships in solving the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo?

1.4 Research Objectives

` 1.4.1 To investigate the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo.

1.4.2 To examine the governmental and non-governmental responses to the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo.

1.4.3 To identify the guidelines for Public-Private-People partnerships in solving the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In order to facilitate this study on the phenomenon of street children in Togo, the city of Lome, the capital of Togo, is selected as the site of this study by several reasons. First of all, the city of Lome is the largest city in Togo and has the largest part of the country's population according to the last general population and housing census of 2022. Secondly, economically, the city of Lome mobilizes a great deal of economic activity as well as the administrative services and major institutions of the country. Thirdly, in the field of industry, the rare production and processing units, namely the cement plant, the large mill companies of Lome, the oil processing plant and the free zone, are located in the capital. This preponderant presence of economic activity and production unit in the city of Lome gives more job opportunities to the population, hence the movement of labor to urban areas in search of work. Fourthly, the development of small businesses and the presence of shops as well as bars in the capital constitute a factor of attraction for children who seek to do daily activities to feed themselves. In addition to this, these places of commerce serve as a resting place for these children who have left their parents to live on the streets.

At the last, due to economic activities mentioned above, a substantial section of the population in Lome is aware of the urbanization and considerable growth phenomena. Urbanization and the population changes have resulted in astonishing city growth and an unheard-of extension of the slum issue. The city of Lomé draws a sizable number of rural residents each year as well as numerous international immigrants, which increases the urban population (Guézéré, 2011). In the nearby neighborhoods and the major market in Lomé, there are more street kids. It still harbors a considerable number of illegal occupants, including children and beggars, beneath its porches and platforms. Their conduct draws a lot of attention from other people, and the street children are highly apparent in and around large businesses and bars. The city of Lome, thus, presents one of these factors of attraction for street children, which justifies the choice of this city for this study on the phenomenon of street children in Togo. As a result, it is chosen as the location for a thorough field inquiry.

The period chosen for this study of the phenomena of street children in Lome is between 2006 and 2021 in order to allow us to better analyze the situation. The beginning of 2006 marks the period of political change and the resumption of cooperation with the Bretton Wood institutions and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) following the organization of legislative elections at the end of 2006. This has resulted in the resumption of financing of economic and development programs in the country with a new direction of the country's development through the development of strategic documents for economic and social development, namely the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers 2009-2011; the Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion Strategy 2013-2017 and the National Development Plan 2018-2022. All these strategic documents aim to reduce poverty through the creation of employment and wealth on the one hand and the structural transformation of the country's economy in order to raise Togo to the status of emerging countries on the one hand, while following the guidelines of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, this research will cover the study of the recent global health crisis brought on by the Covid 19 virus from 2019 to 2021, which affected both developed and developing countries and had an effect on vulnerable populations. Street children considered as vulnerable people have seen their living conditions more accentuated during the period of this Covid 19 health crisis. These street children in Lome are not spared from this crisis which has hit the whole world.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Urbanization

Considered to be a complicated phenomenon and of several levels which are studied from different points of view, urbanization is therefore considered as a social way of the establishment of large cities. This complexity shows the reason for the contribution of several researchers and an interdisciplinary analysis for the definition of urbanization (Hussain & Imitiyaz, 2018). According to Tisdale (1942), the urbanization is the process of population concentration. The urbanization process operates in two ways: it multiplies the concentration points and increases the size of each particular concentration. It may occasionally halt or even reverse direction, but the social tendency is for it to continue until it is stopped by adverse conditions. According to his study, he claims that, he does not know if a point of saturation, or "urban maturity", can or will be achieved, followed by a stability or slowdown of the process. Although some data shows such growth, this question is difficult to evaluate due to the situational and derived nature of urbanization (Tisdale, 1942). According to Tisdale (1942), Urbanization can only be defined as a concentration of people, yet this definition is clear and simple. When the entire process is evaluated in terms of time and place, it makes sense logically and etymologically.

According to Mitchell (1956), Urbanization is transforming into urban regions, which includes the movement of people or activities and the expansion of urban areas or populations. The process by which areas become increasingly urbanized as a result of population expansion and the movement of people and activities is known as urbanization. Urbanization includes not just the migration of people from rural to urban regions and the relocation of individuals from occupations in rural areas to jobs in urban areas, but also fundamental alterations in people's behavior, attitudes, and ways of

thinking. Thompson (1935) describes urbanization as the transfer of people from small agriculturally oriented towns to bigger, government-focused, trade, manufacturing, or allied interests-focused areas. Anderson (1959) views urbanization as a transition from land-bound to urban work that involves fundamental shifts in people's thinking, behavior, and social values, whereas Jakobson and Prakash (1967) define it as a societal movement. While Hauser and Duncan (1959) define urbanization as a change in population distribution, Breeze (1969) defines it as a shift in behavior patterns and a migration from agriculture to urban pursuits.

According to Takano (1959), urbanization is the process through which rural regions are transformed into urban areas as a result of the growth of modern industry. Urbanization studies in geography concentrate on objects (soil and labor), actors (capital), causes, and domains of the urbanization process. The study of urbanization in geography focuses on the process's physical and temporal differences. Because of its fast advancement, urbanization is classified into four types: metropolitan, community-based, industrialized, and traditional industrialized. These definitional problems are related to changes in definitions over time within the same country as well as the use of several concepts, which is the situation in slightly more than half of nations that utilize two or more criteria. Approximately two-thirds of countries, according to estimates, categorize urban areas using an administrative definition, but almost all of them also utilize additional elements to describe urban areas, such as population size, density, economic occupation, or urban functions. Another 49 countries use only population size and density; however, when coupled with other criteria, this number doubles (Moreno, 2017).

In short, the definition of the concept urbanization depends on several factors. It is noted on the one hand that some researchers maintain that urbanization is the movement of the population towards the most developed urban environments in search of better living conditions (Tisdale, 1942; Thompson, 1935; Mitchell, 1956). For others, urbanization is characterized by the transformation of the rural environment into an urban environment with the development of agricultural activities into industrial activities and economic and social transformation (Anderson, 1959). But the common point of these definitions is the concentration of the population in a city accompanied by a change in behaviors and way of living in society.

2.1.1 History of Urbanization

The narrative demonstrates how civilizations and people have acknowledged and reacted to the opportunities and difficulties presented by their natural surroundings, and it offers important lessons for sustainability (Redman, 1999; Diamond, 2005; Costanza et al., 1997; Sinclair et al., 2010). According to Redman (2011), the displacement of populations in search of available resources, the maintenance of ecosystems in order to maintain a good evolution of products at the local level, the emergence of social difficulties maintained by the formal institutions which ensure the management types of activities constitute the three fundamental approaches to solving the difficulties of antiquity. These paths to solutions were crucial for the advancement of the first civilizations and are crucial for inclusion in the design of long-lasting cities in the future (Redman, 2011).

Getting people to go to the resources that were accessible was the first step in providing enough sustenance. Agriculture, which permitted year-round populations in many locations, interrupted this trend. The second method of problem-solving, ecosystem management for increased productivity, is shown by the agricultural industry. This has successfully fed a growing global population and allowed almost everyone to dwell in permanent settlements. A very successful link between humans and environment has resulted from the development of agricultural and infrastructural improvements. Sedentary societies have been aggressively pushed to expand and thrive (Elmqvist et al., 2013). Elmqvist et al. (2013) suggest that, the small farming community and eventually eclipsed it as the most common type of human habitation on Earth. This was the most resilient and common community form due to its small settlement sizes, adaptability in subsistence supplies, and a balance between ecological exploitation and regeneration. Despite having its roots in the Near East nine or maybe ten thousand years ago, the idea spread or was replicated, and by the middle of the twentieth century, similar agricultural cities were home to more than half of the world's inhabitants.

But when populations increased and the social structure required to adapt, a third approach to problem-solving started to emerge, mostly as a result of increases in

social complexity. The so-called Urban Revolution, which appears to have originated in Mesopotamia, is fundamentally based on this principle (Childe, 1950; Redman, 1999). On the Mesopotamian plain, the development of the first settlements and their fusion into a single civilization was impressively swift given the scope of the social and technological changes necessary. Writing and other aspects of urbanization, such as monumental architecture and artisan specialization, emerged approximately 5500 BC, just 2,000 years after the earliest known population in this area (Elmqvist et al., 2013). The emergence of cities is not only the expansion of big populations; rather, it encompasses communities that are significantly more diverse and interconnected than their predecessors.

Village agricultural communities were distinguished by relative independence and self-sufficiency, but this also limited their expansion. One method for urban communities to flourish was via specialization in the production of numerous items and complicated trading networks. Cities were reliant on their hinterlands of neighboring towns and villages and devised methods to extract products and services from them (Elmqvist et al., 2013). Cities' development was influenced by technical innovations like efficient agriculture irrigation, product production, and advancements in science and mathematics. Social innovations like class-based societies, legal systems, and territorial governance made cities viable and essential for their functioning (Elmqvist et al., 2013).

In villages and towns, the interaction between the land, production, and people developed; this facilitated the expansion of sizable, diversified populations that would eventually congregate into what are now known as cities. Ancient towns in Mesopotamia and other places reacted to the particular possibilities and limitations of their local social and ecological context, but broad patterns evolved that are similar to modern cities and may offer important lessons (Simon, 2008; Smith, 2012). Cities can be identified by (a) a substantial population that (b) congregates in one location; and (c) buildings and monuments that (d) represent organizations that organize and promote productivity.

Since the dawn of time, military conflicts have threatened groups of people and their wealth in Mesopotamia and other places, and they have repeatedly sought refuge behind strong defensive structures (Redman, 1978). This has resulted in tightly packed

cities enclosed by walls of defense, but at the same time, increasing rural-to-urban migration has caused settlements to extend outside the walls, a phenomena that we can now refer to as sprawl. According to Boone and Modarres (2006), the Near East, Asia, and medieval Europe frequently followed this pattern of tightly clustered dwellings and central institutions inside the walls, and residential settlement expanding far outside the walls. In fact, according to Marco Polo, "there is a suburb outside each of the gates, which are 12 in number, and these suburbs are so great that they contain more people than the city itself" (Smith, 2010) was the area around the Mongol capital that would eventually become Beijing.

The design of other ancient towns was characterized by a distinct kind of sprawl, with homes scattered among agricultural plots in a wide, low-density continuum encircling the main institutions and monuments. The towns of the Khmer in early medieval Cambodia, the traditional Maya of Central America, and various precolonial African tribes have all been identified by scholars as having this type of settlement pattern (Evans et al., 2007; Scarborough et al., 2012; Simon, 2008). The Khmer capital city of Angkor is well recognized for its central temples and enormous hydraulic works, but it was also surrounded by a large spread of homes, farmland, local ponds, and an infrastructure that connected around 1,000 km² of low-density urbanization (Evans et al., 2007). Many of the major Mayan cities, such as Tikal in Guatemala and Caracol in Belize, had low density urbanism as well, with the major structures of temples, pyramids, and palaces in the center surrounded by a vast array of housing complexes, agricultural plots, and an infrastructure of roads, causeways, and reservoirs connecting them all (Scarborough et al., 2012). Agriculture inside narrowly defined urban bounds contributed a significant portion of the city's subsistence in each of these examples, highlighting the historical origins of the present rebirth of urban agriculture (Barthel & Isendahl, 2012).

Throughout much of human history, the vast majority of people lived in small villages. This has altered dramatically during the last several centuries, particularly in the last few decades. People have migrated in great numbers from rural to urban areas (Ritchie & Roser, 2018).
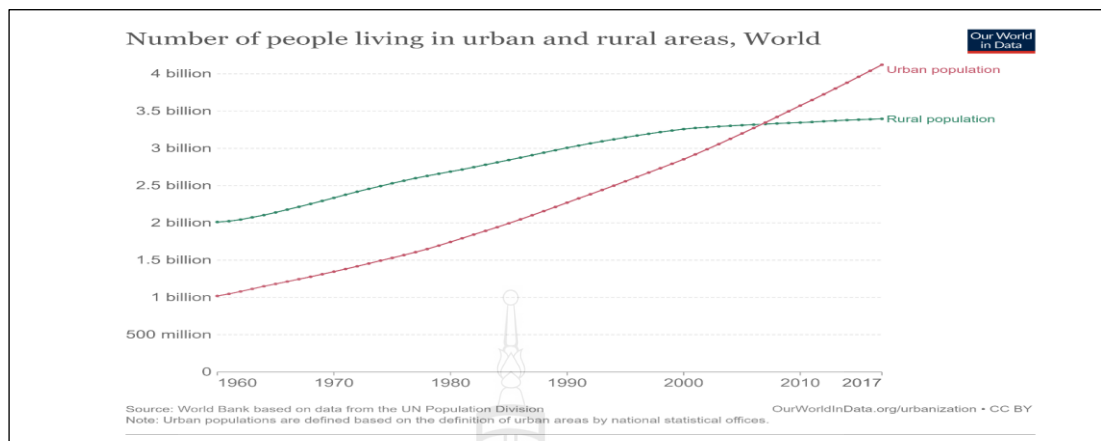
Source World Bank (2021)

Figure 2.1 Number of People Living in Urban and Rural Areas, World 1960 to 2017
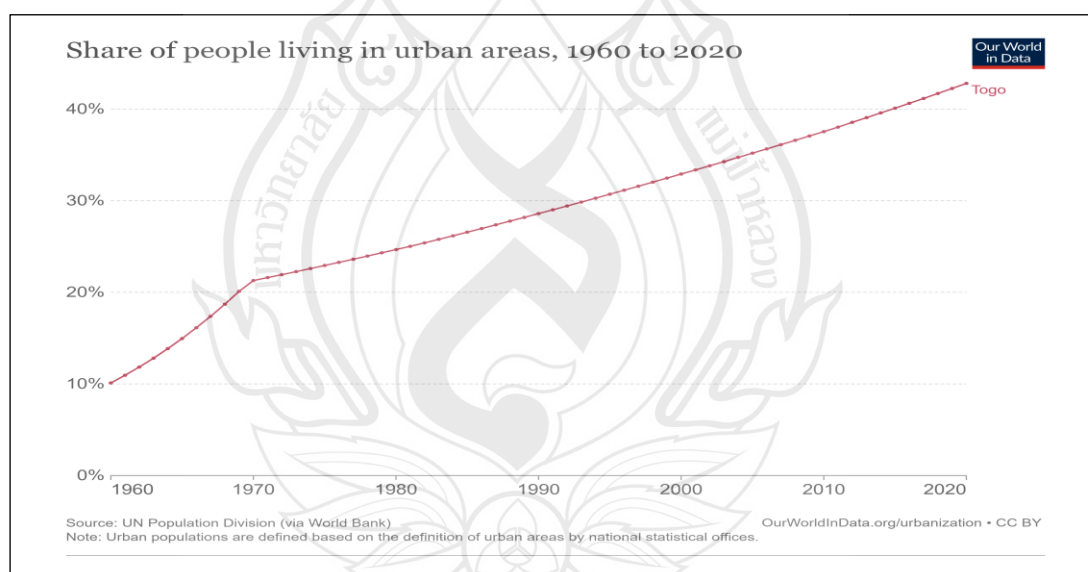
Source World Bank (2021)

Figure 2.2 Share of People Living in Urban Areas in Togo, 1960 to 2020

Togo has seen gradual urbanization since gaining international sovereignty due to its tiny population and limited capacity, and infrastructure, both social and economic.

Togo has seen rapid urbanization of more than 20% during the 1990s (Ritchie & Roser, 2018)**.**

According to United Nations population data, the urbanization phenomenon has increased from 35% to more than 42% between 2005 and 2020. This urbanization is characterized by an increase in population and a massive migration to large agglomerations such as Lome's capital and regional leaders. The urbanization that results from an increase in population in cities is not always accompanied by an improvement in social and economic conditions. As a result, the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups have deteriorated. (Ritchie & Roser, 2018).

2.1.2   Impacts of Urbanization

The phenomenon of urbanization which consists in the increase of the population and the massive displacement of young populations towards the most developed environments with a view to the search for the most favorable living conditions has positive and negative impacts on the population of these populations. According to Vlahov and Galea (2002), it is important to do in-depth research on the positive aspect of urbanization. They confirm that urbanization improves intellectual and cultural growth and development, personal empowerment, tolerance and diversity and opportunities for social movement, as well as the redefinition of conventions. They believe that urban life produces victims but also produces survivors and prospers.

It is important that psychologists better understand how urban populations manage to cope with stress problems in the city and how these inhabitants manage to overcome them. To achieve this, they must analyze the meaning of coherence, competence and mastery in the urban environment (Dankelman & Davidson, 2013; Marsella & Scheuer, 1988).

The consequences of population increase are also evident in the aquatic ecosystem (Postel & Peterson, 1996). In the same case, the installation of populations and the construction of habitats in river beds constitute a permanent threat to the ecosystem (Sala et al., 2000). According to the United Nations (2004), almost all of the population growth over the next 30 years will occur through the expansion of existing urban areas due to the increase in the world's urban population at a rate faster than the total population. The transformation of rural lands adjacent to urban areas into urban

use areas causes enormous stresses on the freshwater system with adverse effects on biodiversity and ecosystem processes (McDonnell & Pickett, 1990; Sala et al., 2000 Paul & Meyer, 2001).

According to Paul and Meyer (2001), varieties of stressors on rivers in urban settings have been identified by previous studies. To add to this, the research of Klein (1979), Heaner and Huber (1984) show that the chemical and physical properties of river systems are often modified by the effect of urbanization. One of these effects is also marked by the increased frequency and magnitude of storm flows (Arnold et al., 1982; Booth & Jackson, 1997; Trimble, 1997). Heavy groundwater use and low recharge reduce the volume of base flow (Klein, 1979; Finkenbine et al., 2000).

On a social level, urbanization has a considerable impact on the family. the effects of urbanization have reduced the size of the family according to the opinions of urban sociologists and at the same time weakened the bond between family members in the case study of the city of Srinagar in India (Hussain & Imitiyaz, 2016). In terms of parental decision-making, the change brought by the new family structure has transformed the way of decision-making within the family. Authority is no longer granted to the father of the family or the man in the household. The loss of authority of men and the elderly began to take place in families (Hussain & Imitiyaz, 2016). According to the analyses, Hussain and Imitiyaz (2016) showed that this new urbanized family has changed in terms of individualism and is in search of material goods with the consequence of a loss of the value of sharing and collectivity. To support this assertion of social and economic problems caused by urbanization, the research of Jaysawal and Saha (2014), showed that poor urban planning always causes social and economic problems as the case of Kalkata and Bombay. On a social level, this problem is characterized by the lack of housing, the creation and multiplication of slums, difficulties in the area of transport, the supply of drinking water and the insufficiency of social infrastructures such as schools and hospitals and insufficient job creation (Kundu, 2009). The studies of Kundu, Bagchi and Kundu (1999) confirm that these migrants from rural areas who are without qualifications live in slums in conditions of extreme poverty which has effects on their children. Social conflicts as well as acts of crime and antisocial activities are the causes of social and economic inequality created by uncontrolled urbanization (Kundu & Gupta, 2000).

In terms of child care, the adoption of the nuclear family has led children to be solely under the protection of their parents. These children are no longer under the control of other members of the family hence the lack of supervision of grandparents and parents, as a result they are no longer under social security or social control and these children can easily indulge has a street life (Hussain & Imitiyaz, 2016).

The results of different researchers on the economic and social impacts on both sides of the world caused by uncontrolled urbanization are at the origin of the extremely difficult living conditions of poor families and lead children to choose a life of street, which is the subject of this study.

2.1.3   Experiences of Urbanization in Other Countries

With regard to the experiences of the urbanization of cities and the consequences on street children in other countries, especially in Africa, previous research (Wainana, 1981; Kariuki, 1989; UNESCO, 1994; UNICEF, 1998; Ochola, 2000; Kieni, 2015), have made it possible to highlight the realities of cities and the consequences of this phenomenon of urbanization in the field of employment, household income and the living conditions of people in disadvantaged backgrounds.

The perpetuation of culture, the economic development maintained by traditional society experienced a weakness in the face of the arrival of the process of urbanization and the development of the industrial world which did not take into account the family institution and its solidarity (Kieni, 2015). According to Evans et al,. (2014), children in urban areas are the consequences of weak family structures coming from urban and rural areas. This new family structure is made up of separated families, parents in financial difficulty and widows whose children live in a condition that pushes them to choose life on the street. It is in the same sense that Kariuki (1989) affirms that this exposure of children to various facilities for economic activities in an urban environment leads them to exert an influence on their neighbor living in the same social environment to exercise this activity to survive in the street. Wainana (1981) in his research on the effects of urbanization on families supported this idea that, peer influence through gifts and street support can also drive children whose parents are in difficult financial conditions to follow their brothers in the street.

The opinions of UNESCO (1994), on the issues of children on the street in urban areas, revealed that the poverty of families, the lack of public-school infrastructure has forced the private sector to intervene in the sector of education has made the cost of schooling very high. Consequently, parents are no longer able to provide for their children's education, which causes children to fail at school and ultimately pushes them to abandon school to join the street. UNICEF (1998) states that the treatment inflicted on children in urban areas by their parents or certain family members forces some children to flee the home and end up on the streets.

Population growth in Africa is accelerating at such a rate that, according to (UNDP, 1990), its urban population will double by the year 2000. Most of the population of these countries lives in cities because of the ease that these cities have according to these inhabitants. According to United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (1996), these large African cities are experiencing a population growth whose urban growth is beyond 5% and this constitutes a great danger for the well-being of children. Studies of urban population growth and its consequences on the lives and well-being of children are based on African cities namely: Maputo in Mozambique which has a growth rate of 6.3%; Nairobi in Kenya with a rate of 5.3%; the city of Lagos in Nigeria with a rate of 5.6% and Luanda in Angola with a rate of 5.1% of urban growth.
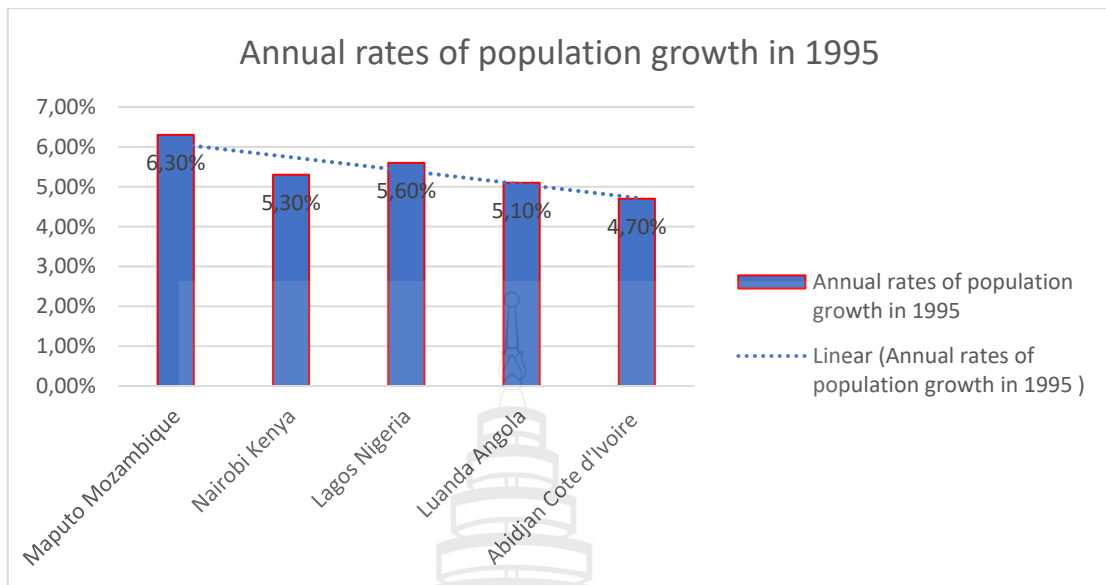
Source Ochola (2000)

Figure 2.3 Annual Rate of Population Growth of Cities in African Countries in 1995

Figure 2.3 shows the annual rate of population growth in cities in African countries according to studies by UNCHS, 1996. According to the graph, this evolution of the population reflects the entry into the labor market of two thirds of the population, while these countries produce very few jobs for young people. According to Kanye (1996), more than 790,000 people enter the labor market each year while the economy of this country generates only 60,000 jobs per year.

Consequently, these young people affected by demographic consequences, namely unemployment, live in overcrowded neighborhoods with deplorable living conditions, in unsanitary conditions and without the necessary infrastructure and services (Ochola, 1995; Ochola, 1996). One of the examples is that of Kenya where almost 47% of the urban population live in precarious areas (Kanye, 1996). As for the city of Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanzania, urbanization is so high that 70% of the population resides in undeveloped neighborhoods (Kanye, 1996) and the population of these neighborhoods is large. with unsuitable housing and no drinking water systems, no urban road system and sanitation is non-existent (Munyakho, 1996).

One of the characteristics of these suburbs is social exclusion and the precarious onditions in which these populations live (Kanye, 1996). According to Kanye (1996), the low level of education and the lack of professional qualification of the inhabitants of these suburbs are proof of social exclusion in the outskirts of the city of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast and therefore more than 70% of these people, the majority of whom are women, perform Low income is a term used to describe individuals or families who earn less than the average income in their area jobs. Parents' lack of employment forces them to put an end to their children's schooling and to exploit them or push them into the streets to supplement the family income (Ochola, 1996).

These different experiences of the effects of urbanization in different case tudies are addressed on the one hand by researchers and organizations on the other hand. Researchers, for their part, have focused on the rapid evolution of urbanization and industrialization in a disproportionate manner without taking into account the social needs that must accompany it. Concerning organizations, urbanization has weakened the social fabric by creating poverty within families, which exposes children to the street situation which is the subject of this study.

2.2 Street Children

The definition of the concept is made to avoid confusion in terminologies during this study. According to Ennew (1994), street children refer to those who have taken to the streets as their true place of residence where they lack all protection and are not under the control of any responsible adult. In the definition of the street child concept, a paradigm shift is needed from the analysis of the child in a street situation, taking into account the importance given to children, to their daily life and to taking into account their opinion (Panter-Brick, 2004).

Through the analyzes of Boakye-Boaten (2006), he considers that street children are not considered apart from children who are in abject poverty in urban areas. For this reason, in his studies of street children in Ghana, the majority of children between the ages of 9 and 18 who spend their time working all day, or sleeping on the

streets without parental control and who no longer go at school are considered as street children (Boakye-Boaten, 2006).

According to Lalor (1999), the concept of street children is heterogeneous populations as mentioned in the literature. Unicef (1984) distinguishes three types of street children, namely: "children at risk, children on the street, and children of the street". Children at risk constitute the largest group from which these urban poor young people in street situations come. These are children who have lost their parents and have become orphans, often suffering from violence and abuse by their family members. The children on street are children from street-working groups form a permanent bond with their family members, spending time on the streets and returning home periodically. Children of the street are the categories of children who not only work on the street but also live on the street. These children have left home and have no connection with their respective families.

These children are more likely to earn a living through illegal activities: "These children become adults because of their behavior, their way of living". They no longer depend on people and lack the affection and love of their family. They are distinguished by the effects of addiction and drugs as well as the life of prostitution as well as violence. (UNICEF, 1984). According to UNICEF (1993), street children are estimated at 75% boys and 25% girls in 1992. Girls working in homes, businesses like restaurants and bars, as well as on the streets, help to explain this.

It is claimed that age plays an important role in the lives of street children dueto the nature of street activities. In Latin America, the age of street children starts from 10 years old, as same as street children in Ethiopia (Vealae, 1993; Chatterjee, 1992). Regarding the reasons for the departure of children on the street, the results showed different reasons pushing children to choose the street. They search for work, fleeing the disharmony of the family, or either by the displacement or the death of the parents. The study of street children in Colombia in 1978 showed that 36% of children left home because of extreme poverty, 27% because of family breakdown, 20% because of physical abuse and 10% by adventure (Echeverry & Arias, 1978). In interviews with a subsample of 69 street girls, it was revealed that abuse at home was a significant factor in their decision to come to the street (Lalor, 1997).

The point of view of researchers on the relationship of street children with their families whether in Latin America or in Ethiopia are the same because according to the results of Echeverry and Arias (1978), Vealae (1993), Chatterjee (1992), Lalor (1997), the majority of street children have a good relationship with their family. "Despite their diverse family backgrounds, most street children have maintained contact with their families. More than 80% of samples of 1,000 people see their families every day, implying that most children are still inextricably linked to their families (UNICEF, 1993, 7-8).

Considering the definition given by the different researchers in this study, the emphasis will be placed more on the UNICEF definition which takes into account the three categories of street children. This definition deals in depth with the different conditions in which street children can find themselves.

The choice of using the UNICEF definition of the concept of street children in this study is multiple. firstly, the UNICEF definition responds to the different difficulties encountered by different researchers for example (Lalor, 1997; Echeverry & Arias, 1978; Chatterjee, 1992) which classifies street children according to their relationship with their parent. Secondly, the UNICEF definition responds to concerns about multiple causes which are economic poverty, urbanization, violence against children, and abandonment of children by parents. Finally, UNICEF is one of the international organizations and partner of the Togolese government which deals with the problem of children in general. It deals with the problem of child development in general, health, and living conditions of children through the support of national actors. She is working with governments and civil society organizations to find solutions to the problems children encounter. Therefore, the use of the definition of the concept of street children in this study fits better and allows us to clearly understand the problems of street children.

2.2.1   Causes of Street Children

Given the complexity of the phenomenon, the literature has not been unanimous on the causes and origins of this phenomenon experienced by the large agglomerations of developing countries. It is in this sense that Marguerat (1998), in "The paths of the street" analyzes the causes of these street children phenomenon. The communications

of Marguerat (1998) on marginalization enabled him to classify these groups of children, three of whom are of rural origin and three of urban origin, and therefore in general, the breakdown of the family is one of the causes of this process and refoulement of children to the streets. The following authors have shed light on the rural origin of these young people living on the streets, namely Marie-Therese (1998).

Through this passage, Marguerat (1998) reveals the causes of the rural origins of these young people who find themselves "neglected in cities" in the years 1965 in Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire and the same phenomenon in Yaounde in Cameroon in 1994 at the time the devaluation of the currency which has exacerbated poverty among the populations. The long drought in the villages also pushes young people to go to town. Sometimes, young people in conflict with parents because of the legacy, war situations between communities or natural disasters can also push children to find themselves in cities for more security (Marguerat, 1998). Concerning the marginality of urban origin, he continues certain beliefs held in rural areas which have been transposed to the city. Marguerat (1998) on the one hand, cited conflicts between families, stigmatization and causes of social rejection "witchcraft", child malformations, the religious practice of "Islam" which requires children to go to the streets to ask for the agent in order to run the Koranic school; and on the other hand, the distance between the workplace and the parents' home means that some parents are away from home all day.

As for poverty, it is one of the causes when parents are unable to ensure the schooling and the needs of the children; it is in this sense that some husbands who abandon their wives because of the lack of means to meet the needs of the family. Other than poverty, variables such as wealth that is accompanied by a decline in responsibility sharing might disrupt the family structure.

According to Marguerat (1998), the problem of the marginalization of children in cities is also a product of history in the periods from the abolition of slavery to the oil shocks of the 1980s and the period of apartheid in South Africa. The construction of ancient cities such as Nairobi, Kenya, Pretoria, South Africa, and Dakar, Senegal has increased, posing a threat to society and children. These phenomena were born thanks to the marginalization of a part of society, especially women in a deplorable situation who are forced to engage in sexual activities to survive. These women prostitute sometimes become mothers without knowing who is responsible for the children, the

latter are abandoned and become a danger to society because of their presence on the street.

Through this article by Lalor (1999) which aims to describe the phenomenon of the street child in Ethiopia by comparing it to that of Latin America, he has tried to analyze the different variables which characterize this general phenomenon. His research variables concern the age, gender, background, victimization, and delinquency of Ethiopian street children in comparison to those in Latin America.

Concerning the causes which are at the basis of the phenomenon of street children, the results of the studies carried out by (Nasir & Siddiqui, 2017) have highlighted the facts which are at the basis of this phenomenon in the city of Lahore in Pakistan. According to Nasir and Siddiqui (2017), family size and family income are factors that play a very important role in the presence of children in street situations. They revealed that in Pakistan, families with low income and high size have difficulty meeting the needs of the family and especially those of the children. In their research they also highlighted the lack of access to basic needs, the lack of interest in education, violence in the family, the desire to live in the city and the bad behavior of brothers in the family. In general, lack of means plays a big role in children leaving home to choose a life on the street. In order to enable the actors to find a solution to this phenomenon, they proposed that a particular intention be given to these living conditions of parents with the aim of creating conditions to improve their quality of life and income in order to be able to provide for the needs of children. on the other hand, a revitalization and strengthening of collaboration between stakeholders, the private sector, and communities, as well as NGOs, supported by researchers, in order to better face this problem.

To add, the results of the studies carried out by Salehi et al. (2022) on the situations of street children in Tehran show that the majority of street children in Tehran are orphans of the father or mother and sometimes these children come from families who have a difficult financial condition and whose parents are unemployed or some of them are underemployed. On the contrary, not all street children come from poor families in the city. There are also waves of migration which contribute to the presence of children on the street. The result of the studies carried out by Moradi et al. (2015) on the cause and presence of children in the street show that in 2014, nearly 73.7% of street

children in Tehran come from immigrant parents from neighboring countries such as Afghanistan.

Zarezadeh (2013) states in his article: Investigation into the status of street children that the complexity of the phenomenon means that several factors contribute to its realization. These four factors are economic, socio-cultural, family, and the individual factors of the children. The economic factors are characterized by the poverty of the parents, the injustice in which they live, the lack of employment, the significant difference between social classes and the uneven distribution of national income. The social and cultural factor is manifested by the negative effect of demographic growth, population movement, conflicts, evolution in social and cultural values, judgment of values, and use of children in social activities, as well as production, violence against children and the weakness of support structures for children. Concerning family factors are large families and family conflicts. Individual child factors are the characteristics of children and their ability to cope with the difficulties and problems associated with maturity. Zarezadeh (2013) concludes that the economic factor has a very important influence on the other factors because most children first seek to find a way to survive. So this factor must be taken into consideration in resolving this phenomenon of street children.

2.2.2 Previous Study of Street Children in Other Countries

In order to deepen the understanding of this study on the phenomenon of street children in Lome, a synthetic analysis of the different studies carried out in other countries was carried out. Dimba (2012) in his article: Explanatory factors of the street children phenomenon in Kinshasa, try to deepen the analyzes of the factors which lead children to choose street life in Kinshasa in order to help the government to provide real solutions in the resolution of this phenomenon of street children. The results of this study showed two important elements in the phenomenon of street children in Kinshasa, namely the explanatory factors on the one hand and the instigators of the descent of children into the street. The incentive factor is composed of six important elements which are poverty which occupies 43.48% of the surveys according to the analyzes of the results of the children questioned, the death of the parents which occupies 26.81% and the divorce of the parents is at 14.13 %; while travel, abuse and polygamy occupy

rates below 10% each. As for the instigators of children taking to the streets, the study reveals three elements, namely the parents 56.52%, the children themselves 30.07% and the mothers-in-law 13.41% who play an important role in the presence of children in the street.

As far as what is concern by Ernestina and Keng-Yen (2022), through their research on street Children in Ghana's Golden Triangle Cities: Mental Health Needs and Associated Risks, they examine the prevalence of mental health problems and a set of risk factors connected to the perceived quality of life and social ties, this study aims to fill these research gaps caused by the lack of research on mental health to guide action or psychoeducation programs and policy planning. Additionally, this study attempts to determine if demographic and contextual factors including gender, age, career status, reason for living on the street, and length of time on the street mediated the connections between risk factors and mental health problems. The findings of their paper on street children health reinforce the notion that street children have critical mental health needs. 90% of street children had a poor quality of life, and 73% had moderate to severe mental health problems. Perceived pleasure or quality of life was the most accurate indication of street children's mental health. Social connectivity was shown to be solely associated to children's mental health in particular groups and circumstances. This study adds to the body of knowledge about Ghana's highly disadvantaged street children community, as well as global pediatric and adolescent mental health.

On the contrary, Hasan and Nicole (2019) with their article: Poverty, Vulnerability and Everyday Resilience: How Bangladeshi Street Children Manage Economic Challenges through Financial Transactions on the Streets, focused on the use of networks by street children to exchange money in order to build their resilience and maintain their well-being context in the face of enormous difficulties. Subsequently, the study referred to the conditions of their existence and survival, such as access to food, housing, security and a sense of belonging. The findings of their study suggest that participants have comparable vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms in the lives of street children. These kids' everyday lives revolve around working and making fast purchases in order to survive. The need to generate daily revenue while dealing with income unpredictability is one of these kids' major vulnerabilities. Participants' adaptive responses include engaging in financial transactions within their peer

networks. The findings also demonstrate that these social networks, which support the wellbeing of street children, are ingrained in their lives.

Finlay Djonoukou (2006) in, Contribution to an Anthropological approach the Phenomenon of Street Children in Togolese Cities: Case of Lomé, makes it possible to understand the explanatory factors of the phenomenon and to understand why the actions and measures of public actors and Non-Governmental Organizations in the resolution of this phenomenon seem ineffective. The results of this study made it possible on the one hand to recognize the profiles of these street children in Lome, and the precision and precision on the terminology of the street child. On the other hand, this study allows us to understand the causes of this phenomenon of street children, namely the dislocation of the family fabric, the low economic level and poverty of households which leads to a reduction in the authority of parents and the growth uncontrolled urban.

2.3 Public-Private-People Partnerships

The definition of the word partnership requires dictionary usage and that given by researchers (Waker & Avant, 1995). According to the Collins English Dictionary (1991) the term partnership means an equal commitment and the state of being a partner. The Concise Oxford Dictionary (1992) defines it as having a pair on the same side in a match, and a person sharing or taking part with another, especially in a commercial enterprise with the sharing of risks and benefits.

Rodgers' (2000) concept analysis technique is effective in analyzing the idea of collaboration in health and social care because it analyzes the concept's "context" (Gallant et al., 2002). Because the definitions of terms such as partnership and cooperation have evolved throughout time and place, context is critical when defining them. In order to illustrate this, Gallant et al. (2002) state that over the past 50 years, the concept of "partnership" has changed. From the International Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations 1948), which placed a strong emphasis on an equitable, just, and free society, to the need for citizens to become more self-reliant and take charge of

their own health (WHO, 1978), to more recent observers like Frankel (1994), who highlight how a better educated and infected population can.

The use of partnerships as tools for urban development is associated with shifts whereby strategic planning is added to traditional land-use planning, and where roles are assessed and adjusted for residents, associations, and public and private sector actors in what is perceived as a process that shifts from governance to government (Pierre, 2011). According to Pierre (2011), theories of urban governance may provide a helpful framework for understanding the role of government in governance as well as the opportunities and challenges in the interaction between the public, private, and other actors. The idea of creating additional value through cooperation, wherein the parties share risks and collaboratively actualize goods, services, or policies, is the cornerstone of public-private partnerships.

Public-private-people partnerships, along with more general approaches of stakeholder engagement and collaborative arrangements, are becoming increasingly important mechanisms to address social problems (Kanter, 1999), enhance social welfare (Berger, Cunningham & Drumwright, 2004), and enhance corporate social responsibility (Albareda, 2010 Seitanidi & Crane, 2009). Sloan (2009) and Senge, Lichtenstein, Kaeufer, Bradbury and Carroll (2007) assert that they are also evolving into a tool for achieving strategic organizational objectives and supporting systemic change. A rise in academic studies on cooperative approaches to stakeholder interactions can be attributed to the growing significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships. These arrangements go by many names, including "social alliances" (Berger et al., 2004), "partnerships" (Seitanidi & Crane, 2009; Tomlinson, 2005), "collaborative groups" (Bryson et al., 2006), "inter-organizational arrangements" (Mandell & Steelman, 2003), and "cross-sector social partnerships" (Selsky & Parker, 2010).

Formal agreements in which groups from many sectors (private, governmental, and non-profit) promise to work in a way that benefits both parties in order to achieve goals that they could not achieve otherwise are known as multi-stakeholder partnerships (Loza, 2004). This definition incorporates three fundamental principles: first, it admits varied actors, unlike strategic alliances whose partners work solely for economic advantages; then, bringing partners together allows them to achieve goals that they

cannot achieve alone. This is possible through the exchange of know-how, experiences and diverse ways of doing things; finally, the search for benefits for all members, and the collective advantages of each member. It begins by recognizing the range of partners. Private corporations, public and government institutions, and nonprofit partners are regularly involved in multi-stakeholder collaborations. This is in contrast to normal strategic partnerships, in which participants seek financial and interpersonal gains from collaboration (Bryson et al., 2006; Kanter, 1999). According to Mandel and Steelman (2003) and Warhurst (2005), corporations have collaborated to achieve goals that would be unattainable via individual efforts. This has often been achieved via sharing knowledge and expertise as well as combining complementary and disparate skill sets (Vangen & Huxham, 2003b). Finally, a partnership seeks win-win situations (Googins & Rochlin, 2000), mutual gain (Waddock, 1988), and synergistic outcomes that offer the partners with a "collaborative advantage" (Vangen & Huxham, 2003b). Although other definitions of collaboration (Selsky & Parker, 2010; Waddock, 1988) emphasize societal benefits, this definition allows for strategic business gains.

The concept of partnership attracted considerable labor attention in Great Britain in the 1990s (DIT, 1998), the Trades Union Congress (TUC, 1999), the main British unions as well as Acas and the Work Foundation (Acas, 2003). This concept of partnership remains a subject of debate despite attracting a rich research literature (Ackers et al., 2004). Because of the inherent ambiguity (Bacon & Storey, 2000), the notion of partnership has been described as "an idea with which almost everyone can agree, without having a clear idea of what he agrees" (Guest & Peccei, 2001, p. 207) cited by (Johnstone et al., 2009). According to (Johnstone et al., 2009) the concept of partnership has given rise to significant incomprehension and scientists have not been unanimous on the definition of the concept.

Several discussions were held on the importance of the definition of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and what it is for. Thus for some researchers, it is important to redefine the concept of PPP in order to see if the concept can be used for other studies (Hodge & Greve, 2007). The important characteristic of the definition of the concept of PPP is the character of sustainability, risks and benefits within the framework of collaboration and cooperation between the private sector and the public (Klijn & Teismans, 2005). According to William (1997) the concept of PPP is quite clear

according to the opinion of people for whom it no longer requires a specific definition, because everyone has given their opinion on the general definition of the concept. According to the general definition, PPP designates the implementation of collaborative actions which involve the participation of the public and private sectors. But the consideration regarding its application consists of whether it is a management mechanism, a development technique, or a language game (William, 1997). Public-private partnerships in urban development refer to a variety of initiatives in which public and private groups work on policies, services, or commodities while sharing related risks (Steijn et al., 2011). This might mean, for example, developer and municipal planning authorities working together to create complete design and construction plans.

Public-private partnerships are thought to be especially helpful in brownfield rehabilitation projects, as the public sector is encouraged to incorporate the private sector in various arrangements due to limited public budgets (Glumas et al., 2015). The Baltic Urban Lab initiatives use this context to evaluate public-private-people partnerships (4ps) in brownfield development. Taking a holistic approach to a brownfield area as a whole is seen to be more efficient and lucrative than individual landowners making their own initiatives. Blokhuis et al. (2008) assert that while managing brownfield development without strategic partnerships with other public and commercial players is challenging for municipalities, determining what role they should play in the process is sometimes still a source of confusion for them.

Urban planning and the 4Ps are collaborative processes involving several stakeholders. When discussing various partnership models, it is not always clear who is actually the public sector, the private sector, and the community or individuals (Mirafab, 2004). Eliveira and Costa (2018) contend that recognizing the diversity of these collective actors both within and between categories is essential to comprehend the features of public-private partnerships. The public sector includes, among others, politicians and a broad spectrum of civil authorities operating in different administrative domains and at different administrative levels. The private sector is made up of many different players, including as financiers, developers, architects, consultants, small and medium-sized enterprises, and commercial actors. The people might also be referred to as the civil society, together with collectively organized private individuals and persons.

Public-private partnerships focus on the interactions between individuals and the public and private sectors, as well as how these institutions are organized. This is important since it helps to establish a solid set of four principles. Time and location also restrict the amount of participation that different participants can have; that is, different actors participate in the planning process to varying degrees.

For effective management of the public sector, public-private partnerships appeared in the 1990s as a very important instrument throughout the world as a result of new public management (Osborne, 2000). This new way of managing public affairs has led the management of public service to benefit the provision of services. The objective of this new public service management is to reduce public spending and transfer responsibility to the private sectors and to promote voluntary private sector engagement in the provision of public goods (Mitchell-Weaver & Manning, 1991).

Nowadays, the concept of public-private partnership has become a very important instrument in the management of public services in both developed and developing countries. Generally speaking, public-private partnership is considered as "institutional cooperation" agreements of a long period between public and private actors with the aim of achieving a common objective. There are several types of partnerships with different characteristics depending on the activities in which they are involved. On the contrary, a minority agree on what exactly partnership is and its definition, which is proof of the absence of its definition and this concept is still contested.

The use of public-private partnership was from the start oriented towards the realization of infrastructure projects and certain services for the benefit of the State without placing particular emphasis on people and the well-being of the person in a sustainable manner. Which means that despite the progress in the realization of these projects, the living conditions of people as well as their living environment are increasingly deteriorating. This constitutes a weakness on the part of the actors in the implementation of public-private partnership in the implementation of projects and programs hence the need to involve communities and people in the realization of the partnership. Taking into account the 4Ps made it possible to take into account not only the participation of people and communities but also to enable the realization of

people's needs and to improve the living conditions of people in a sustainable manner in the realization of social projects (Wong, 2013).

Public-Private-People Partnerships and Sustainable Development Goals

According to the United Nations (2015), the analysis of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is classified into 5 dimensions, namely people, planets, prosperity, peace, and partnership, or as known as 5 Ps, in order to take into account the aspiration of all for harmonious and sustainable development in the world. The first P, which is People, addresses people concerns and relates to SDG 1 No poverty, SDG 2 Zero hunger, SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4 Quality education, and SDG 5 Gender equality. These SDG 1- 5 boil down to the elimination of poverty and hunger in all these forms on the one hand and ensuring good health and well-being as well as quality education while ensuring gender equality (United Nations, 2015). These SDGs, which are aimed at the population, consist of making it easier for the government to implement effective and efficient means to reduce hunger and provide health services and ensure gender equality in a sustainable way.

The Second P is for Planet. Protecting the planet constitutes a very important issue in achieving the SDGs. In order to achieve this objective, the following 5 goals were dedicated to its achievement, namely SDG 6 Clean water and Sanitation, SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 Climate action, SDG 14 Life below water, and SDG 15 Life on land. As part of the sustainable management of the planet, funding for studies and analysis and the creation of new techniques allowing the management of natural resources in an inclusive, resilient and sustainable manner that benefit everyone. According to the United Nations (2007), importance must be given to strengthening the capacities of public officials on the achievement, monitoring and evaluation in an effective and efficient manner of the SDGs, particularly those relating to life on earth and below water because of their negligence on the part of the government and the population in general.

The third P is for Prosperity, which includes SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 10 Reduced inequalities and SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities. Despite the evolution of the annual GDP, the world is experiencing the problem of employment and the increase in the working poor. This precariousness and

lack of employment descent is the origin of imbalance within the strata and the equality between people which threatens prosperity in the world. We must therefore ensure balance in the world through the establishment of favorable conditions to reduce poverty and put in place infrastructures capable of supporting investment and the creation of employment and wealth to ensure prosperity in the world. The United Nations (2015) proposed the use of the urban population in a diversified manner in order to create jobs and manage cities with more sustainable methodologies by involving communities and supporting researchers.

The fourth P involves Peace or SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions. The various conflicts between States, homicides, human trafficking and violence against women and children constitute a threat to peace and justice in the world. In order to ensure peace and justice in the world, governments must establish institutions and legislative frameworks for justice capable of ensuring peace in the world (United Nations, 2015).

Last and most importantly, the fifth P is for Partnerships, which relates to SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals. The UN (2015) emphasizes the need of collaborations between the public and private sectors in achieving sustainable development goals. These coalitions must have a similar vision for people and the environment, be inclusive, and be founded on shared beliefs. The fifth objective in partnerships is important to improve public administration and management in Africa by fostering transformational leadership, inventiveness, resourcefulness, and inclusivity in the formulation of policies and program implementation. Partnerships, according to the SDGs, involve transforming society, boosting living conditions, and exchanging scientific and technology advances and discoveries. Furthermore, by creating alliances and networking innovative approaches to develop and implement high-quality policies and programs that protect and preserve people and the environment, this strategy shifts leadership in both the public and private sectors. The United Nations (2015) asserts that it is imperative that no one fail to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the responsibility of both public and private sectors to implement national and local development plans in order to fulfill the five imperatives for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships.

The majority of children are nowadays confronted with the problems of marginalization and victimization which make them vulnerable and sometimes result in the choice of the street. According to the UN Assembly (2015), Goal 11 of sustainable development is dedicated to making cities and habitats sustainable and in ways that take into account the needs of all and face all dangers. Depending on the increase in the world population, the number of people living in slums may increase and thus make their living conditions a little more difficult. Most of these cities do not have the capacity in terms of housing, infrastructure and services to cope with this galloping urbanization, the consequence of which is the multiplication of these precarious habitats. Despite the progress made in the implementation of the SDGs in 2015 in various countries, difficulties still persist and in 2022 only half of the urban population would have access to public transport services. Thus, to achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to significantly transform urban spaces (UN Assembly, 2015).

It is in this vein that several institutions through the Sustainable Development Goals have adopted the notion of partnership so that everyone brings their capacities, their experiences, and the means to contribute to helping other communities in solving this phenomenon of street children in the world. The studies of Bademci and Karadayi (2013) entitled "Working with street boys: Importance of creating a socially safe environment through social partnership, and collaboration through peer-based interaction" based on the problem of street children namely (To-gather with children Project) and is a partnership between universities and centers for the application of children in Istanbul in coordination with the child protection social service in Turkey. Its project consists of leading young street children to practice cultural sporting activities and giving them training to acquire intellectual capacity. During the project, an interview was carried out with the children to evaluate the project and see its impact on the behavior of the children. This research explored the findings of the study which clearly and strongly highlights the effectiveness of the partnership between the government and the university and child welfare organizations in creating a sociable environment through a partnership including the peer involvement in working with street children. Partnership in problem solving at the country level occurs at many levels. Within the framework of the implementation of the Sustainable Development

Goals, the level of partnership is much broader. This allows countries to collaborate with other countries to deal with a problem. States also have the possibility of approaching international organizations such as those of the UN and the International Monetary Fund or European and Asian institutions in the resolution of national problems.

Therefore, the 17th Sustainable Development Goal aims to revitalize the partnership at the global level to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda due to its universal nature and the involvement of all countries. It is for this reason that the intervention of all partners, namely the government, the private sector and civil society organizations (Assembly, 2015), is necessary. According to the United Nations General Assembly (2015), there must be a strong commitment to partnership and cooperation to achieve development goals to ensure that everyone is included.

To facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations has adopted several approaches to improve interventions to achieve all targets (UNDP, 2016). This achievement of objectives needs a new calculation through objectives and a new approach. It is within this framework that objective 17 of the SDGs was dedicated to consolidate the partnership with a view to sustainably achieving all the objectives retained (UN, 2017). The role of the multi-stakeholder in the partnership is to raise awareness and disseminate acquired experiences, expertise, innovation techniques and financial support to help stakeholders achieve the SDGs.

The report of the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs during the period of May 2017, made it possible to identify the shortcomings in the achievement of the SDGs. To improve this, particular emphasis was placed on revitalizing the multi-partnership of stakeholders with a view to achieving the SDGs (UN, 2017). In the same dynamic, the African Union (2015) affirmed that a real strengthening of partnership is needed to make it easier to achieve the SDGs in the context of the African Union's 2063 agenda as well as national development plans for countries.

With a view to implementing the SDGs, several actors have been engaged in this process, led by the United Nations (Witte & Reinicke, 2005). To do this, five actors were identified in the implementation of the partnership within the framework of achieving the SDGs in South Africa. These actors are the United Nations institutions;

government and the private sector; civil society organizations; the scientific and academic community is made up of research institutions and universities. Each of these actors has key roles to play in achieving these objectives and is interdependent.

The analysis of the interrelationships between the different actors involved in the SDG implementation process in South Africa shows several weaknesses. Firstly, there is a lack of political direction at the highest level of government in terms of knowing how and why a public-private partnership is needed; subsequently, we notice a lack of commitment to the benefit of public-private partnership in the departments and at different levels of government; and finally, there is distrust between partners, businesses and civil society as well as a lack of time and resources and the know-how to encourage partnership (UN, 2017). On the other hand, there are also public-private partnerships, between the State and the private sectors, whether national or international, in solving the problems of a country. These partnerships are often conditioned to allow each stakeholder to respect their commitment and benefit from problem solving.

Despite the level of spending in developing countries and the consequences suffered by developed countries following the COVID-19 health crisis, public development aid has seen a decline. Added to this, the support provided for the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine as well as the support provided to the State at war has had harmful effects on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. From this perspective, it is necessary for each State to be able to mobilize these internal resources, just as donors must also realize their commitment to supporting countries in the implementation of sustainable development objectives (Assembly, 2015).

Following the various scourges which threaten the world namely the conflicts of wars between nations, the poverty and the deterioration of the world of development and the scarcity of raw materials have drawn the attention of the United Nations organizations to these consequences on the consequences in the future. They realized that this pace of development still creates a large number of needy people who find themselves in conditions of vulnerability and further alteration of the environment. It is in this context that the concept of sustainable development was adopted to allow the future generation to benefit from natural resources in the future (Keeble, 1988). Along the same lines, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) defines sustainable development

as improving the quality of human life while living within the limits of the carrying capacity of the ecosystems that support them. This places importance on the quality of life of human beings and at the same time the preservation of the earth's resources for future generations. Beyond these definitions based on the link between nature and humans, in 2002, the Johannesburg summit brought two pillars, namely economic, socio-cultural, for a complete definition of sustainable development which places particular emphasis on social justice and efforts to reduce poverty (Kahriman-Ozturk, 2023). According to UNESCO (2005) sustainable development is composed of three pillars which are socio-cultural, economic and environmental and therefore there is an interrelation between these pillars. It is then necessary to collaborate with all the actors in order to achieve it.

The effort to implement the partnership between the different actors, namely public actors, the private sector and people or communities, makes it possible not only to encourage the resolution of the phenomenon of street children in Togo, but also to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the first 5 SDGs which are more people-based. SDG 1 is established by the end of poverty in all its forms everywhere. SDG 2 is established to achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and end hunger. SDG 3 has to insure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and SDG 4 ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and SDG 5 consists to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. In addition, this research will also pay great attention to the SDG 17, which includes in SDG theme of the 5th P Partnerships as the resolution of the phenomenon of street children in which it involves the participation of different actors at various levels and thus centers on the well-being of people constitutes the choice on the people and the partnership of this study.

2.4 Gap from Past Research

Most academic research devoted to the phenomena of street children has focused their study on the explanatory and inciting causes of this phenomenon as well

as the economic and social living conditions of children and their health and well-being (Djonoukou, 2006; Dimbu, 2012; Reza & Bromfield, 2019; Dankyi & Huang, 2022). But studies on the improvement and revitalization of the Public-Private-People partnerships between the different actors in resolving the phenomenon of street children in Lome have not been carried out. This is what constitutes the subject of this present research, mainly on street children in Lome.

2.5   Summary

In conclusion, these different authors addressed various points concerning the problem of children in street situations in the countries. Authors like Djonoukou (2006), Dimba (2012) have focused more on the causes and explanatory factors of this phenomenon, and to understand why the actions of public actors and Non-Governmental Organizations are often ineffective due to the presence of these children on the street. As for Hasan and Nicole (2019), their work is based on the social and economic conditions of street children and their means of resilience in the face of this situation of vulnerability across the country and the use of social networks to facilitate monetary exchanges on the street. Ernestina and Keng-Yen (2022) for their part focused on the mental health of street children in Acrra in Ghana and the other risk factors to which these children are exposed as well as on the provision of scientific information on the problem of mental illness among street children.

The three researchers, namely Djonoukou (2006), Dimba (2012) and Ernestina and Keng-Yen (2022) were more in agreement on the explanatory factors of the phenomenon, the causes of the presence of children in the street on the one hand and the difficulties as well as the means of resistance in the face of difficulties and the means of survival of these children on the street on the other hand. As for the last, (Dankyi & Huang, 2022), research on the health of these street children allows them to know to what level these children are exposed and what measures should be taken to resolve this child health problem from the street.

The increase in this phenomenon, which many large cities in developing countries are experiencing today, are attracting the attention not only of public and

private actors but also those in the academic community because of the consequences of this phenomenon on street children and the society in general. Following the failure or ineffectiveness of public action and the private sector to resolve the problem, researchers must be able to better understand the different causes of the phenomenon and the factors which are at the origin of this phenomenon. It is also necessary to analyze the behavior of these young victims of this street problem to draw good lessons for effective policy.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study entitled: Towards Public-Private-People-Partnerships for solving the street children phenomenon in Lome, Togo, consists of understanding the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome first and then studying the interventions of the government as well as those of civil society organizations to respond effectively to this problem and finally see what measures are in place for the different actors needed to revitalize the partnership to facilitate the resolution of this phenomenon of street children in Lome. In order to carry out this study, a series of interviews was carried out with public service actors who intervene in the field of protection of street children. These public sector which are the services and international agencies belonging to the State: a staff from Ministry of Social Protection; a staff from Ministry of Planning and Development; a staff from UNICEF and International Organization for Migration. The private sectors which are the different agencies or organizations which operate for their own benefit and which do not belong to the State: a staff from ECOBANK, a staff from Health center AIME Afrique, a staff from International Red Cross Togo. The communities or the people who are made up of the population of the communities and civil society in resolving this phenomenon of street children: 8 parents (father/Mother) and 5 Chiefs of Community in Lome, while following a qualitative research approach. Administrative documents and association reports will be used to provide secondary information in order to better understand the phenomenon.

3.2 Research Site

This research selects Lome, a capital of Togo, which is located at Prefecture of Golfe in the Maritime region, as a case study of this research. At the Maritime region, the NISED studies (2022) show that the population by sex and age from 0 to 80 years and over in the Maritime region has increased from 2,199,396 in 2020 to 2,251,603 inhabitants in 2021, representing 51.7% of women and men represent 48.3% of this population (NISED, 2022). Concerning the population of children in the Maritime region, it has evolved from 1,059,430 in 2020 to 1,073,698 inhabitants in 2021 (NISED, 2022). Despite the fact that Togo's population is predominately rural (64.9% of the total population), there has been an enormous and unforeseen growth in the urban population in recent years, most notably as a result of rural migration to the capital Lomé. According to NISED studies (2022), the prefecture of Golfe, which houses the capital, has a total population that has evolved from 417,313 inhabitants in 2020 to 427,551 inhabitants in 2021. Over the same period from 2020 to 2021, the population of children aged from 0 to 19 varies from 187,797 inhabitants to 190,447 (INSEED, 2022).

Lome, nowadays abounds a large part of the population and which knows the phenomenon of urbanization and very important growth. According to the general population and housing ratio in 2022, the city of Lome has a population of 2,188,376 people. It is the only agglomeration with a population of over one million people. According to the 2021 census of population and habitat, the distribution of the population of Lome by age group and gender from January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2021 shows that in 2020 the population of children from 5 to 19 aged, is estimated at 372,000 children and experienced a slight increase in 2021, i.e. 378,000 children. This city is located in the south of Togo, and is a very important center of development and trade with the border of Ghana. The largest population in the city of Lomé belongs to the working class and is mainly engaged in different industries and businesses. Many children of the urban poor work as waiters in hotels, tea stalls, shops, etc. There is a greater concentration of street children in the large market of Lomé and in adjacent areas. It is therefore chosen as a location for intensive field study. The large market and its surroundings have since 1960 been considered the largest shopping center in Togo.

Even today, it houses large numbers of unauthorized people, including beggars and children, under its porches and platforms. Their ubiquity in and around large shops and bars is quite visible and their activities draw considerable attention to others.
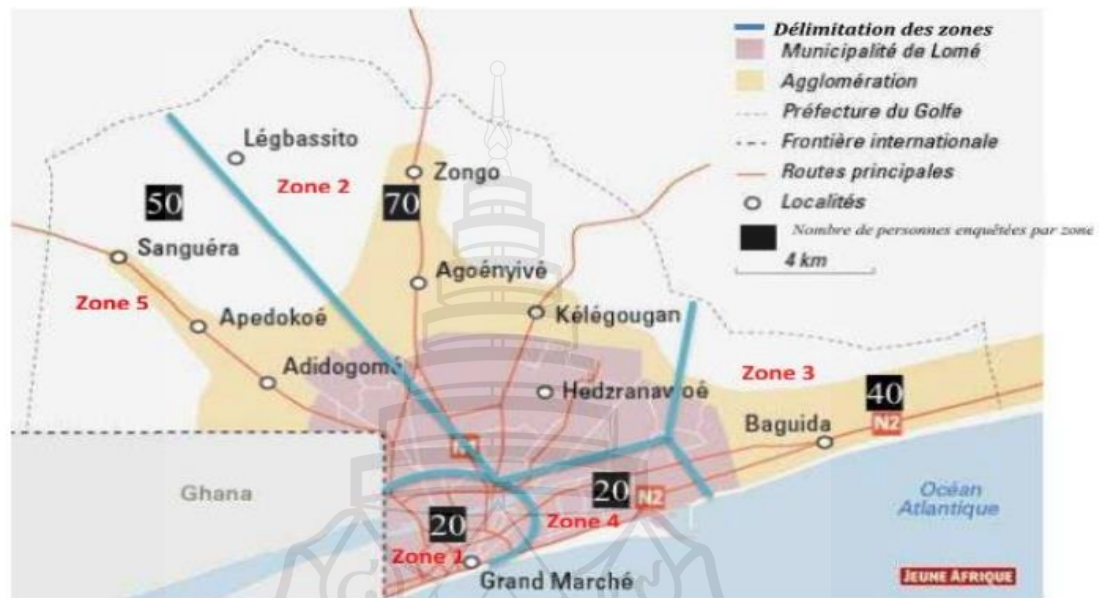
Source National Direction of Economic and Statistic Study

Figure 3.1 Map of Grand Lome

3.3 Data Collection

Data collection is marked by the first phase which is access to the site. It consisted of sending a note for the authorization request to the Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation. Following obtaining this authorization document, it addressed to those responsible for the Ministry of Social Protection who are responsible for the protection of children, and to those responsible for international organizations and those at the national level who are involved in the protection of street children in Togo in order to obtain access agreement to the premises. This procedure makes it possible to provide resource people who participated in the interview and the program was retained for the interviews.

Ennew (1994) conducted studies on several methods that could be used in research relating to the living conditions of children in street situations or child victims of exploitation. The interview is one of the methods of participation and provides an opportunity to provide insight into the views of people in general (Ennew, 1994). Enning (2001) stated that the reliability of data can be archived when numerous interviews with one or more participants and at different times are conducted. According to Strauss and Corbin (1990), qualitative methods could be used to make clear any issue that people are unaware of. This qualitative method is also used to gain other perspectives on ideas and objects from what is already known, through in-depth analysis that reveals more than can be done quantitatively otherwise.

The research collected information from in-depth interview from 3 main sectors, based on the concept of PPPP, which are public sector, private sector, and communities or people.

1. The public sector which are the services and international agencies belonging to the State

    1) A staff from Ministry of Social Protection

    2) A staff from Ministry of Planning and Development

    3) A staff from UNICEF and International Organization for Migration

2. The private sectors which are the different agencies or organizations which operate for their own benefit and which do not belong to the State

    1) A staff from ECOBANK

    2) A staff from Health center AIME Afrique,

    3) A staff from International Red Cross Togo,

    4) A staff from Plan International Togo

3. The communities or the people who are made up of the population of the communities and civil society in resolving this phenomenon of street children

    1) 8 parents (father/mother)

    2) 5 Community leaders

The interview took place in French which is the official language used in the Togolese administration before being transcribed into English for academic reasons of the study.

3.4 Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis is defined as working with data, organizing it, breaking it into manageable units, synthesizing it, looking for patterns, discovering what is important and what needs to be learned, and deciding what you will say to others (Bogdan & Biklen, 1982). According to Patton (1990), qualitative researchers tend to use inductive analysis, for example noting how critical themes emerge from the data.

The analysis of the data collected in the context of this study, on the one hand, consisted of classifying the information recorded according to the order of the research questions, and then the information was coded according to the number of themes retained. In the end, an analysis of the information was done to differentiate each part according to the evolution of the research ideas. The results of the treatments obtained were translated into English to facilitate understanding for the academic public.

3.5 Conceptuel Framework

Many cities today are faced with the phenomenon of street children, despite the efforts of government and international organizations to find a lasting solution. This paper thus focuses on the resolution of this phenomenon in Togo using; street children, urbanization and public-private people partnerships as the key concepts. In order to meet the study objectives, the research focused on people's partnerships, analyzing the links between them and their roles in resolving this phenomenon in Lome, Togo.
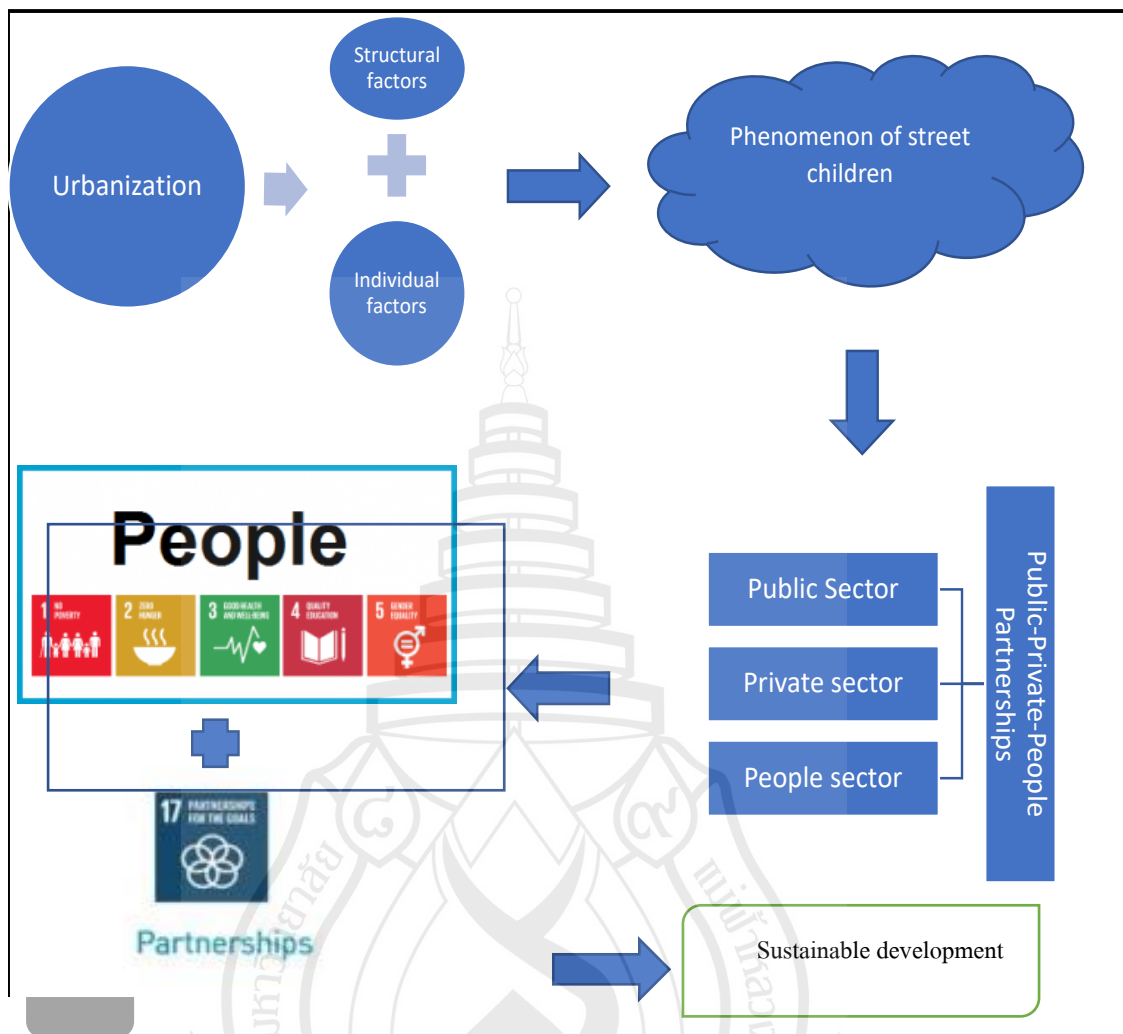
Figure 3.2 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study on Public-private-people partnerships to resolve the phenomenon of street children in Lomé, Togo is built around the following concepts: the concept of urbanization, Public-private-people partnerships, and Sustainable Development Goals. The phenomenon of street children in Togo is worsen due to the impacts of urbanization, which is characterized by two factors, including structural and individual factors. On one hand the structural factors include the problems of economic inequality that lead to poverty and unequal distribution of income, rule of law and law enforcement practice, social norms towards exploitation and child abuse. On the other hand, individual factors manifest themselves through family problems such as parental death or neglect, cultural problems and physical and

mental abuse against children. These two main factors cause the phenomenon of street children in the city of Lomé to be worsen.

The resolution in a non-concerted manner with the different actors showed a weakness of the actors in the implementation of constructive collaboration. This research, then, applied the concept of Public-Private-People Partnership as a mechanism in solving the problem of street children in Lomé. This constitutes the collaboration of different actors, namely the public sector which are the services and international agencies belonging to the State, the private sector which are the different agencies or organizations which operate for their own benefit and which do not belong to the State and finally the communities or the people who are made up of the population of the communities and civil society in resolving this phenomenon of street children. This partnership is established between the public sector which constitutes the various government services, the private sector which are the national and international organizations and civil society, and finally the sector of people which are the communities and the population in general which intervene in the process.

The implementation of the actions of these different actors makes it possible to pool efforts, financial capacities and know-how with the aim of seeking the prosperity of an entire community, and of guaranteeing the protection of the planet and peace under all these conditions through partnership. The pooling of these different actors will generally make it possible to achieve the first 5 Sustainable Development Goals which are based essentially on people element and with the effect of SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goal, will make it possible to achieve partnership element towards sustainable development. The realization of this 4Ps will make it possible to adopt a new strategy to find a solution to this phenomenon of street children in Lome and can also be used in other areas to resolve the difficulties that society encounters.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS

This research on public-private-people-partnership in the resolution of the phenomenon of street children in the city of Lome in Togo has made it possible to bring out the important elements that will make it possible to know not only the causes of the phenomenon but also the intervention of stakeholders as well as the partnership that exists within the framework of the management and resolution of this phenomenon of street children in Lome. This study focuses on public sector who intervene in the protection of children in Togo, as well as the sector of international organizations and the private sector and finally the community of the city of Lome which is made up of village and neighborhood leaders as well as parents.

Prior to commencing, it is imperative to revisit the research inquiries that guided the conduct of the interviews and yielded these outcomes:

1. What are the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo?

2. What are the governmental and non-governmental responses to the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo?

3. What should be the guidelines for Public-Private-People partnerships in solving the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo?

This section will be subdivided into four parts which will first reveal the concerns about the phenomenon of street children in Lome, and the causes which are at the origin of this phenomenon of street children in Lome. The third part focuses on the responses provided by the different actors in the resolution of this phenomenon of street children and the last part sheds light on the presence of the Public-Private-People-Partnership in the resolution of this phenomenon of street children. street in Lome, Togo.

4.1 Phenomenon of Street Children in Lome, Togo

Concerning the presence of children on the street in Lome, it is important to have the opinion of the interview participants on their existence. The results of this study showed that almost all the people interviewed during this research gave a response that proves the presence of these children in the city of Lome and some participants noted the evolution of this phenomenon in recent moments. One of the interview participants declares that the problem of street children is a real phenomenon that concerns the State, development partners, and civil society organizations. According to the Analysis of the situation of children in a street situation in Togo of 2015, sponsored by the Ministry of Social Action with financial and technical support from UNICEF, 5,594 children including 568 girls were living in a street situation in Togo. In Lomé, this figure was 2,877 children including 369 girls (UNICEF staff, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

According to Chief of community in Lome (Personal Communication, April, 2024) demonstrated the serious situation of street children in Lome, he mentioned "the phenomenon of street children in Lomé is a worrying reality which affects the Togolese capital." Similarly, the interview statement is supported by documentary research which confirms the effectiveness of this phenomenon of street children in urban areas. The presence of street children in vulnerable situations in large cities reflects the economic situation and the social stratum to which these children belong. These street children are often looking for a better life (Cario, 2000). To move in the same direction, Chazal (1982) declares in his research that the lack of respect for children in certain families by parents or family members would be at the origin of the assault of these children in the streets of large cities which nevertheless do not have an adequate structure or means to protect them. According to Kaes and Pons (1982), most countries in French-speaking Africa are confronted by this galloping and uncontrolled urbanization which often does not respect human living conditions and is unable to provide basic social services, for the entire population. This creates conditions of frustration and need among parents who are reluctant to express their anger and violence toward their children. These children who are looking for freedom can easily

find themselves on the streets. The preponderance of economic activities in large cities often exposes children to indulge in these street phenomena with the aim of carrying out small activities to meet their needs (Djonoukou, 2006).

These declarations attest that the phenomenon of street children in the city of Lome is a reality and which manifests itself in other cities in the world. The reality of this phenomenon will lead the researcher to answer questions concerning the different causes of the presence of children on the street in Lome.

4.2 Causes of the Phenomenon of Street Children in Lome

Several factors are at the origin of the phenomenon of street children in Togo, mainly in the city of Lome. This is what this study seeks through this study to interview the different actors on the different causes and factors that will be the basis of this phenomenon. The different factors of this phenomenon of street children in Lome would be linked on the one hand to structural factors and on the other hand to individual factors.

4.2.1 Structural Factors

4.2.1.1 Economic Crisis

It is generally observed that the children who are confronted by this situation of the street phenomenon in developing countries are those whose income is not shared equitably. This causes a problem of poverty and marginalization of social classes (Marguerat, 1999). It is in this sense that Termin et al. (2013) affirm in their research that the poor distribution of income and the deterioration of the economic conditions of parents put children in poverty and precarious situations. According to Lang and Frenzel (1988), the economic capacity of a country makes it possible to facilitate the establishment of economic and social infrastructures in order to respond to the different needs of the population. Especially in rural areas, the presence of economic and social infrastructure attracts residents to stay and avoid moving to large cities. Their presence in the respective environments contributes to developing activities to meet their own needs. The lack of these infrastructures leads unemployed parents and young people to move to large cities and thus create a phenomenon of uncontrolled urbanization with

its accompanying consequences, namely, delinquency, urban violence, and the phenomenon of street children. Wacquant (1998), for his part, explains this situation of economic poverty by the lack of employment and effective training that can enable parents to take care of the needs of their children. This is at the origin of the irresponsibility financial difficulties of certain parents and who experience economic and even social difficulties. This sometimes results in the separation of couples and puts children in the situation of the street phenomenon.

Similarly, the results of this study, based on interviews, illustrated that economic challenges worsen the problems of street children. The structural factor, through the results of the interviews, carried out with the different actors on the protection of children in Lome, it appears that this phenomenon is caused by economic poverty as well as the poor distribution of national income. According to this study, poverty and the lack of economic and social infrastructure in rural areas push parents as well as certain children towards the cities in search of employment. As mentioned by the interviewee, "the increase of the phenomenon of street children in Togo and more precisely in the city of Lome is due to the low income of citizens and the lack of financial means to meet the needs of the children and their families" (a parent in Lome, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

A chief of community in Lome stated that

"The increase in the population of the city of Lome in recent years is due to the rural exodus of populations towards the city. These people have no qualifications to hold down a job. They move to cities because of the difficult living conditions in rural environments. This economic poverty in rural areas is manifested by the lack of means of income in these areas and especially the low agricultural productivity in recent years. In the agricultural sector, low production and the use of rudimentary means of production do not encourage parents to engage in this activity, which motivates their choice to move to the cities. The lack of social infrastructure in rural areas does not encourage the population to stay there"

Chief of community (personal communication, April, 2024)

As stated by the World Health Organization officer in Togo, the poverty of families and the lack of social services constitutes one of the causes of the phenomenon

of street children in Lome (WHO staff, Personal Communication, April, 2024). According to the interview with a representative of Aimes Afrique, the international association of doctors for the promotion of education and health, he also agreed that poverty is one of the main drivers. "Many families live in precarious economic conditions, which can lead to the abandonment of children due to a lack of resources to meet their basic needs. (Aimes Afrique staff, Personal Communication, April, 2024). Based on interviews with the different stakeholders, the majority confirmed that economic poverty which is manifested by the unequal distribution of national income is an important cause of the phenomenon of the presence of children on the streets of Lome.

This cause of poverty is supported by Asan and Nicole (2019) who affirm that poverty and vulnerability as well as the daily difficulties of children constitute the fundamental causes that push children to choose the path of the street. Djonoukou (2006) in his research also showed that poverty plays an important role in the presence of children on the street, especially street children in Lome.

4.2.1.2 Urbanization

The rapid increase in urban populations in developing countries poses a problem for cities and their inhabitants (Wainana, 1981). The difficulties in meeting the needs created by the increase in population which is at the origin of the urbanization of cities cause the phenomenon of street children in large cities as well as capitals (Kieni, 2015). UNICEF (1998), through its research on the situation of street children in the world, states that the lack of housing in large cities exposes a large part of the population to living in precarious housing and exposes children to all the dangers of the city. This is one of the main causes of the phenomenon of street children that cities are experiencing today. According to UNESCO (1994), the lack of educational infrastructure in large cities constitutes a major concern for governments despite the aid of the private sector in the field of education, especially at the level of primary and secondary education. This need for school infrastructure in cities exposes school-age children to school dropout and they adopt the phenomenon of street life.

This point of view is also demonstrated by the findings of this research. According to the opinion of the staff of the government on the problem of urbanization in the city of Lome, the observation is that there is a lack of housing policy as well as a

low distribution of educational infrastructure in the city of Lome (staff of government, Personal communication, April, 2024). According to a participant from the private sector, the expansion of the city of Lome towards its outskirts combined with massive movements of the population from rural areas towards the capital aggravates the need for a lack of public services. Residents of the city's outskirts are forced to travel to the center of the city to benefit from certain services (Chief of community, Personal communication, April, 2024). Certain infrastructures, even if they are installed, do not offer an adequate setting that can attract children due to the lack of leisure and play space for children (parent in Lome, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

A parent affirms that the proliferation of precarious housing in the suburbs of the city of Lome has contributed enormously to the phenomenon of street children because these inhabitants shelter people who do not have sufficient means of income to pay suitable rents. These people are those who have many children and at the same time have problems sending their children to school due to lack of employment and income (Staff of private sector, Personnel Communication, April, 2024). "In developing cities like Lomé, rapid urbanization can lead to an increase in the number of street children. Families often migrate from rural areas to cities in search of opportunities, but they can end up homeless" (Aimes Afrique staff, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

In short, documentary research on the causes of urbanization problems in large cities which are at the origin of the phenomenon of street children are supported by the results of this study on the phenomenon of street children in Lome. But these causes are not the only ones at the origin of this phenomenon. This leads the researcher to address in the following point the individual causes of this phenomenon of street children in the city of Lome.

4.2.2 Individual Factors

Another factor that affects children taking to the streets is the individual factor. This factor is characterized as individual because it concerns people in a particular way and their behavior which pushes them to make a decision.

4.2.2.1 Domestic violence

According to Lalor (1999), children in street situations are more victims of violence from their parents and family members. It also highlights the causes of

violence and conflicts between parents and children which force children to choose the path of the street.

According to the results of this study, violence is considered one of the individual factors that contribute to this phenomenon of street children. "Family dysfunction, like, family conflict, divorce, domestic violence and other problems within families can push children to leave their homes and seek shelter on the streets" (Aimes Afrique staff, Personal Communication, April, 2024). When faced with family violence, some children decide to flee their homes because of physical, emotional, and even sexual violence in their family. The street is a safer place for these children than their family environment. Some street children who find themselves at the traffic lights in the city of Lome are often those who have suffered violence from their parents. Some find themselves on the street after having been beaten because of their behavior toward their parents, as explained by a government officer in Togo (Personal Communication, April, 2024).

4.2.2.2 Family abandonment of their children

The presence of certain children on the street is due to family abandonment. Some children are abandoned by their families due to the death of their parent or one of their parents. These children are abandoned in their care without support or protection from an adult (Salehi et al., 2022). A participant in this study states: "among the children we meet in the street, a large majority of these children are orphans. They are forced to work before feeding themselves" (A parent in Lome, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

In addition, parental separation, divorce, and remarriage can lead to an abandonment of family that push children to choose the path of the street. A participant confirmed that: "sometimes it is the behavior of the other partner that forces the child to want to leave the family. Most remarried couples do not show love to children born outside of marriage, which constitutes a lack of affection towards the child" (Chief of Community, Personal Communication, April, 2024). The separation of couples and remarriage is also one of the factors that pushes children to choose the street (Djonoukou, 2006).

4.2.2.3 Imitation behavior

There is also the pressure exerted by other street or neighborhood children which leads some children to leave home to experience street life. According to a participant, sharing information from the street on daily profits and the ease of earning money through small activities gives an illusion to some children to want to try the same thing as their street friends (An AIMES Afrique staff, Personal communication, April, 2024).

4.2.2.4 Religious belief

The presence of certain children in the street can be motivated by the effects of religion. This fact is realized in the environments in which there are Muslim faithful in Togo, where children are taught that it is a good thing to go to the street to ask for food or money to survive. One participant said that some children end up on the street at traffic lights, the majority of whom are Muslims. They come to the street in the morning to look for money and return home in the evening to give it to their parents. These children do not engage in activities to earn money (Parent of children in Lome, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

In short, the results of this study confirm the researchers' hypotheses on the causes that are at the origin of the phenomenon of street children in Togo. Whether it is the structural factor or the individual factor in general, these causes are present in the manifestation of the phenomenon of street children in Lome. This leads the researcher to address the question of the different approaches of actors to solving this problem of street children in Lome.

Concerning the use of drugs as a cause of the phenomenon of street children, drug use is considered a consequence of this phenomenon. It is revealed that these children in a street situation without the control of an adult, are more exposed to the use of drugs and narcotics which will have effects on their health, (Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity, 2011). Street children are more exposed to drug use which constitutes a danger to their health (Boakye-Boaten, 2006). Concerning the case of street children in Lome, the study revealed that these children arrived on the street before being exposed to drug use. In this case, the researcher can conclude that drugs may constitute a factor that keeps children in and not a factor that causes this street phenomenon.

4.3 Responses of Different Actors in Resolving this Phenomenon of Street Children in Lome

To resolve the phenomenon of street children, concerted and global action is required because of its complexity. Governments and non-governmental organizations are called upon to put in place some solutions to help resolve the problem.

4.3.1 Governmental Responses

4.3.1.1 National Development Plan

Each State has the responsibility to define a national vision and a strategic orientation allowing it to provide solutions to the various problems that society encounters. It is in this sense that Togo has for decades developed national policies over a period of 5 years. This study analyzes the National Development Plan from 2018 – 2022, as it is the Plan that has been fully implemented. This national policy relates to the problem of street children because in its implementation, it defines actions to be carried out within the framework of the protection of children and the vulnerable population.

This National Development Plan experienced difficulties in its implementation due to the advent of the Covid-19 global health crisis that the world experienced towards the end of 2019. This health crisis affected all sectors of development and had important consequences on the economic level, the production sector, and the social sector. It is in this context that the new government, which has a 5-years mandate from 2020 to 2025, has set to define an objective of economic growth and social and human development for the future of Togo. The definition of these new objectives allowed Togo to develop a government roadmap that would provide direction for the implementation of this new vision. The importance and particularity of this government roadmap lies in the fact that it has defined three strategic axes with priority given to the first axis which consists of strengthening inclusion and social harmony and consolidating peace in Togo. The second strategic axis aims to boost job creation while relying on the strengths of the economy and the third axis consists of modernizing the country and strengthening its structures. The importance of this government roadmap for 2025 lies in the prioritization of the social sector and the improvement of the quality

of life of the population for sustainable human development in Togo (Presidency of the Togolese Republic, 2020).

This national policy is aligned with the objectives of sustainable development and is on 3 strategic axes, namely the establishment of a logistics hub of excellence and a business center, the rehabilitation of agricultural manufacturing processing centers and extractive industries and finally social development and the establishment of inclusion mechanisms (NDP, 2018).

The 3rd axis of the National Development Plan for the period of 2018-2022 supports social development and the strengthening of inclusion mechanisms. The expected impact of the implementation of this development plan is to improve the competitiveness and overall production of the economy and to create sustainable employment. It will also reduce poverty by accelerating the creation of wealth and ensuring better redistribution of the fruits of economic growth and ensuring downward job creation. The level of human development is improved through better access to basic social services (NDP, 2018).

The results of this study show that current policies and interventions aimed at improving the situation of migrant street children in Lomé are found in the national child protection policy with Children's Code: the code of child adopted in 2007 and entered into force. It defines and coordinates the national child protection policy. The central objective of this policy is to guarantee the freedom and legal personality of each child. Actions taken included;

1. Reduction of birth certificate fees: Birth registration fees have been reduced, allowing all children to obtain a birth certificate.

2. Free school exams: Registration fees for primary and secondary exams are now free for young girls.

3. Right to schooling: The effectiveness of the right to schooling is ensured until the age of 15.

In addition, the National Child Well-Being Policy (NCWP) 2019-2030 has been issued. The NCWP is based on various foundations, such as the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2022) and international commitments relating to children's rights. It aims to create conditions for development and fulfillment for children, to professionalize preschool education, and to reduce disparities in access to

education. The effectiveness of these measures remains to be evaluated (Government Officer, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

       4.3.1.2 Implementation of public policies for child protection

       The social reintegration program initiative is one of the initiatives put in place by the government for the benefit of street children in order to grant them a return to life in society. These programs include educational, psychological, medical, and professional support that will allow these children to build their future.
The establishment of reception and accommodation centers for the benefit of
street children to provide secure housing accompanied by basic food and care. These centers are able to initiate recreational activities to help children have fun and easily integrate into society.

       The organization of awareness campaigns with the aim of keeping the population informed about the different causes and consequences that are at the origin of the phenomenon of street children. Therefore, prevention is also necessary and the various actors must work in collaboration with local communities to identify children who are exposed to this situation and offer them preventive assistance.

       One of the interviewees revealed that:

"Some of the programs intended to protect street children in Togo are Green line 1011. Since 2009, the Togolese state has set up the Green line 1011. This line allows you to receive calls concerning children in difficult situations, including cases of abandonment, abuse, trafficking and children in street situations. It is accessible to anyone wishing to report a case of a vulnerable child or obtain advice on managing situations involving children. The government established the General Directorate of Child Protection (DGPE) and placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Action, the Promotion of Women and Literacy. This department plays an essential role in protecting the rights of children. It helps to globally understand the problem of protecting children, including those in street situations"

       Government Officer (personal communication, April, 2024).

       To give some legitimacy to child protection actions, governments must strengthen laws and policies to benefit the rights of children and protect them against

exploitation, violence, and discrimination. strict legal measures must then be put in place.

4.3.1.3 The implementation of the street child protection program

As part of the implementation of programs for the protection of street children, the study can note several actions that are carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Protection, the Promotion of Women and Literacy (MPSPFA), from the Ministry of Development to the base of crafts and youth employment. One of the child protection projects is that of the distribution of school meals which were provided by the Togolese State with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the Rural Development Project integrated into the Savanes region (PDRIS) and the Millennium Community Program which integrates school canteen initiatives in 6 primary schools for nearly 3,000 students in the Savanes region in Naki-Est and Kountoure.

This experience is supported by the Regional Agency for Agriculture (ARAA) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and NGOs from the northern region as well as the community development and social safety nets (PDCplus) and the National Agency for Grassroots Development (ANADEB). The PDCplus is the largest experience in terms of coverage through "school canteens" supported by the World Bank benefiting 89,931 students from 304 primary schools spread across the national territory for the 2016-2017 school year. Since September 2017, the National Development Support Fund The Base Agency (ANADEB), succeeding the completed PDCplus, has been temporarily responsible for setting up school canteens while awaiting the establishment of a structure national dedicated to school feeding.

Togo's school feeding program is one of several critical safety net measures meant to reduce vulnerability, particularly in rural areas. This project provides free lunch to children attending public elementary schools in Togo's five regions who fulfill poverty guidelines. Its objectives are to improve children's nutritional status in underprivileged and vulnerable regions, as well as educational indicators like as school enrollment and dropout rates. The expansion phase continues with the goals of: strengthening the relationship between school catering, agriculture, and local development; making the school the entrance point for local development initiatives.

Improve the nutritional quality of preschool and primary school pupils in low-income and vulnerable communities; contribute to increasing school attendance and retention; and strengthen community-wide connections.

In carrying out the food canteen program, the primary school management committees play a very important and voluntary role in the management of the schools covered by this program. They are responsible for implementing daily monitoring of the quality and quantity of meals provided to children.

The primary school management committees are helped by groups of women called "Mamans cantines" who mainly provide catering services, the purchase, preparation and distribution of meals. These canteen moms are paid based on individual meals distributed at a rate of 165 CFA francs per meal and per student each day, up to 12% (Ministry of Grassroots Development and Youth Employment, 2016). These women are generally volunteers who are recruited by public education establishments to help the ministry in implementing the child protection program., especially those who prepare food for school students. They must present a state of health free from any contagious disease confirmed following medical examinations and an up-to-date professional health record issued by the competent health services. These canteen mothers receive regular training in the field of basic food safety, on hygiene standards, the basics of accounting and community business management.

School administrative bodies are very involved in the daily procedures of the program and are responsible for counting the children in school every day and transmitting this number to the canteen mothers. They fill the notebooks according to the number of students who have eaten and control the quality and quantity of the meals served by the women. This role is decisive in the monitoring-evaluation system operationalized with the support of the WFP.

The implementation of this program made it possible to obtain between 2008 and 2020, the number of schools benefiting from the school canteen increased from 92 to 315, reaching nearly 100,000 students. A total of 86.2 million meals were served during this period. The benefits of school meals according to students and parents respectively:

The benefits for the student are as follows:

1. It avoids fatigue caused by returning home for lunch;

2. It allows students to be more attentive in class;

3. It represents a guarantee that students will eat at least once a day;

4. It allows students to have better health.

The benefits for the parents are as follows:

1. It frees parents from the worry of lunch and thus allows you to carry out rural activities more peacefully;

2. It saves money on family food reserves;

3. It prevents children from fatigue caused by the distance between home and school;

4. It gives better health to children and reduces the incidence of diseases

School canteens have always had an impact on student attendance and retention at school. The School canteens is a program set up by the Togolese State through the Ministry of Grassroots Development of Youth and Youth Employment with financial support from the Togolese State and the World Bank for the benefit of children in disadvantaged school environments in Togo. This program aims to improve the nutritional quality of children in schools and to retain children in the education system to avoid dropping out of school among vulnerable children who may find themselves in the situation of street children. It is in this sense that this program was carried out in all regions to provide assistance to these children in schools. It was reported that the number of students attending schools with canteens had increased year on year. Indeed, overall, enrollment increased from 79,931 in 2014-2015 to 84,983 in 2015-2016 and to 89,867 in 2016-2017, i.e. an average rate of increase in enrollment of 6.03% (Annual report on the implementation of the social security system 2016). According to the management of the establishments visited, the establishment of school canteens has led to an increase in registrations, better regularity of students in classes, and a reduction in dropouts, as evidenced by certain statements by school officials in Box 1. Nets security Enrollments in the FSB project increased from 91,319 students in 2017-2018 to nearly 100,000 for the 2019-2020 school year,

Effect of school meals on the nutritional status of children: School meals provide 60 to 75% of students' daily calorie and protein needs, with calcium and iron

also being part of the nutrients contained in the meals. However, for greater efficiency and tangible effects on the nutritional status of students based on a rigorous approach to health surveillance of the national services concerned, improvements must be made to the quality of meals.

Effect of school feeding on the development of local production: School canteens have positive effects on local production. The meals served to students are mainly prepared with local products such as cereals, legumes, tubers, vegetables and others. The canteen is supplied by canteen mothers from local markets. School canteens thus create new demands for agri-food products for the benefit of producers and processors.

Source Ministry of Grassroots Development of Youth and Youth Employment (2016)

Figure 4.1 Photos of Children in Cantines Program, from Ministry of Grassroots Development and Youth Employment, 2016

4.1.3.4 The presence of education, health, and housing services in the urban environment for street children

The presence of health education and housing services is very important in urban areas to enable city residents to lead an easier life. As part of this research, the

results show that a significant part of education services are represented in the city more than the other services cited in this study because of their importance for children.

In terms of health in general there is an adequate health service in the country and most health services are supported by the health insurance system which has become universal in recent years. According to our research participants, despite the presence of this universal health service, there is still a large majority of young people especially vulnerable children who experience difficulty in seeking treatment when they are ill.

4.3.1.5 The role of the public sector in the protection of street children.

The housing problem today constitutes one of the most important factors that worsens the situation and the living conditions of the city's population. Working conditions are relatively difficult, the population experiences difficulty coping with housing concerns. There is a policy of building social housing which is in execution but the results of the research show that vulnerable groups are unable to afford this housing service which is beyond their means of income. A participant states that: the city of Lome does not have housing reserved for children in street situations. These children are often supported by non-governmental organizations who house them, feed them, and train them to give them a better future.

This intervention shows the weakness of the intervention of the different actors in the implementation of the policy of protection of street children in the city of Lome and in general in the country.

4.3.2 Nongovernmental Responses

4.3.2.1 Roles of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in resolving the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo

The extent of the evolution of the phenomenon of street children in Togo in recent years has attracted the attention of several non-governmental organizations. Among these organizations, we can cite some that intervene in Lome: the Action Movement for the Reintegration of Marginalized Children (AMRMC) founded in 2005 in Lome. The NGO AMRMC is a secular and apolitical non-profit organization. It is run by young people wishing to contribute their skills to social development in Togo. She is committed to the reintegration of children in vulnerable situations, especially

street children in Lome. The closure of the main care and reintegration centers for street children in Lome in the 2000s forced these children to return to the streets. This is what led the NGO AMRMC to make the decision to act with children in street situations with a view to giving them a new chance. The essential mission of this organization is to transform the individual tragedies of these children into collective hope. Members of AMRMC actively work on inclusive education and the social reintegration of street children in the city of Lome (UNICEF, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

One of these organizations that intervenes in the protection of children in general is the Plan International Togo (PIT). This Plan international Togo Organization strives to promote the rights of children and young people as well as equality for girls throughout Togo. Since its creation in 1988, its actions have focused on education, the protection of children and the economic empowerment of adults in Togo. It intervenes in the field with certain NGOs in carrying out its missions. In order to achieve its objectives, the NGO Plan International Togo organized in collaboration with the NGO Green Village Foundation from March 18 to 31, 2024, an advocacy training for the benefit of 155 young people. This training allowed these 155 young people, including 108 girls, to know advocacy techniques. At the same time, this training meeting made it possible to highlight the problem that young people encounter in their locality and makes it possible to formulate solution approaches to resolve these problems (Plan International Togo, 2024).

Source Plan International Togo (2024)

Figure 4.2 Photos of Training of Youths by Plan International Togo

In order to enable each young person in Togo to participate in the development of their country improve its conditions and avoid poverty, the NGO Plan International Togo organizes capacity-building sessions for young girls and boys. This capacity building allows the organization to finance youth entrepreneurship initiatives with a

view to helping them become entrepreneurs and boosting their leadership (Plan International Togo, 2024).

4.3.2.2 Roles of the business sector in solving the street children problem in Lome

The business sector has a fundamental role in a country which is that of the creation of wealth through the provision of employment and the search for profit. The businesses and private companies are expected to respect societal responsibility by participating alongside the states in resolving certain social problems. Concerning their participation in solving the problem of children in the city of Lome, the research took into account certain private companies, Aime Afrique, which intervenes in the field of health in the city of Lome and Ecobank, which is a bank private investment in Lome. Of the two private companies selected, only one contributed to the data collection process as part of this study. This shows the level of participation and involvement of private companies in the fight against the problem of street children in Lome.

The study revealed that, in order to participate in the resolution of the phenomenon of street children in Lome, business sectors such as health center Aime Afrique which intervenes in the field of health in Lome organized with the support of its agents, free operating days. These operations consist of treating vulnerable people as well as street children who suffer from certain illnesses. They also provide medical monitoring and awareness raising for street children in the city of Lome. A Staff from Aime Afrique mentioned that: "Business sectors provide assistance in the fight against the phenomenon of street children in Lome by ensuring access to health care and awareness to prevent street children from diseases" (A representative from Aime Afrique, Personal Communication, April 2024). This type of free medical intervention is done regularly to help street children in Lome. The contribution of business sectors across the city of Lome which provide health care and which help street children to integrate care centers helps street children to avoid the risks of illness in their presence on the street in Lome, (Parent in Lome, Personal Communication, April 2024). Concerning the banks, Ecobank Togo provides assistance through donations of food and clothing to the street child care centers which are responsible for taking care of street children in Lome. These different contributions from the business sectors help the actors to face the problem of street children in Lome and contribute to the

improvement of the living conditions of street children. The analysis of the research shows that the contribution of the business sector in resolving this phenomenon of street children in Lome is weak compared to the participation of international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

4.3.2.3 Roles of communities in resolving the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo

Regarding the participation of the community in the resolution of the phenomena of street children in Lome, the communities must play an important role in the resolution of this phenomenon. This community is made up of community leaders and the population who are parents as well as young people. Community leaders are responsible for leading their population and serving as intermediaries between the population and institutions and organizations in the implementation of their awareness-raising action to combat the phenomenon of street children. According to a representative of community leaders: "Certain street children in the city of Lome are referred to community leaders to look for their parent with a view to reintegrating them into their respective families. This is an important effort by communities to address this problem of street children in Lome" (Chief of Community, Personal Communication, April 2024).

Concerning the contribution of the population, the results of this research show that the population is not sufficiently informed and raises awareness despite the actions of organizations on the manifestation of the problem of street children in Lome. According to the results of this study, more than 65% of people surveyed had never been trained on child protection. the population must be trained on the consequences of domestic violence and violence against children. A small number of the population are aware of the institutions that are responsible for dealing with child protection issues and are unaware of the various child protection programs that are underway.

The low participation of the different actors in resolving the phenomenon of street children in Lome requires a revitalization of the partnership between these different actors in order to deal with this problem. This is what raises the question about the presence of the partnership and the situation of this partnership as well as the link between the different actors.

4.4 Challenges of Encouraging Public-Private-People Partnership in Solving the Street Children Problems in Lome

The realization of certain social problems requires the pooling of skills and resources of several actors, whether at the village or national level. It is in this sense that Berger, Cunningham, Drumwing (2004) affirm that the public-private-person partnership improves responsibility and social commitment. The public-private-individual partnership makes it possible to put together the tools to achieve the strategic objectives of organizations for changing conditions (Carrol, 2007). The results of this study show that in Togo there is a partnership between the different actors involved in the protection of children. The researcher can cite the partnership between the government and international institutions. the different actors in this partnership are the government which is represented by the ministries in charge of personal protection: the ministry of social action, women and literacy, the ministry of grassroots development and youth employment, and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Cooperation. As for international organizations, we have the United Nations Children's Organization (UNICEF), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). At the level of non-governmental organizations there is Plan international Togo, the NGO ANGE, AMRMC, the NGO Espace Fraternite, the NGO Halsa Internationale and the communities. In the same way, all the actors interviewed in this study recognized the existence of the partnership between the different actors for the protection of children. The study reveals that there are partnerships between the different actors for the resolution of this problem of street children (Government officer, Personal Communication, April, 2024).

4.4.1 Lack of Collaboration Among the Different Actors

The results of the study showed that despite the presence of this partnership between government and private sector actors, the entire population is not clearly informed about their mission as well as the objectives assigned to them. This does not facilitate the sharing of information about the phenomenon of street children and knowing how to get the population to resolve this phenomenon (A parent in Lome, Personal Communication, April, 2024). One of the important factors in the functioning

of the partnership is the collaboration that exists between the different elements that compose it and the definition of the function of each. The level of participation of each actor must be clearly defined and each actor must know their role and the objectives of the partnership must be known and shared by all actors. If all the actors do not intervene at the same level in achieving the objectives of the partnership, this may have consequences on the objective of the members who compose it. As part of this research, the results showed that the partnership is not working effectively. This is seen through the evolution of the phenomenon of street children despite the existence of the partnership.

4.4.2 Lack of Community Involvement

In the realization of the partnership within the framework of a program at the national level, the effective participation of all layers and all actors is required. Although this partnership to combat the phenomenon of street children is in the interest of the population, strong involvement of this population is required for the success of this program. It is with this in mind that the former president of South Africa said "Everything you do for me, without me, is against me" (Mandela, 1995). The results of this study showed that the population is not well involved in the creation of these partnerships. In addition, the participation of different institutions, namely the academic and research fields as well as other actors from non-governmental organizations, makes it possible to facilitate action to improve the living conditions of people in vulnerable situations (Bademci & Karadayi, 2013).

One of the problems that prevents the objectives set by the partnership from being achieved is the lack of training of the population and the actors involved in the process. there is little participation from the media which should normally raise awareness and train populations on the phenomenon of street children in the country and share the actions and strategies adopted by the actors to help reduce the effects of this phenomenon.

4.4.3 Lack of Financial Resources and Supports

The implementation of policies and programs through the partnership of several actors often encounters difficulties. Each partner at their level, whether it is the public

sector or the private sector and the communities, there are always problems that do not allow the objectives set by these different structures to be achieved. Through this study, the majority of the results revealed the problem of financial resources encountered by State structures and other actors. According to the participants, these actors are unable to mobilize resources to meet the needs of children in vulnerable situations. Then there is little support from structures and organizations that help children. The organizations involved are unable to cover the entire country due to limited financial resources.

4.5 Summary

For a number of reasons, the plight of street kids is complex. One of the main causes of street children's existence is poverty. Children from many low-income homes are forced to live on the streets since their parents are unable to support them. In different situations, these kids may have been abandoned or lost their parents, which would have made them look for safety and sustenance in public areas.

Another factor adding to the issue of street children is the breakdown of families. Substance abuse, marital violence, and parent death are a few issues that might lead to this. Without a safe and supportive home environment, children may find themselves on the streets in search of acceptance and a means of survival. Children may potentially become homeless as a result of poor access to healthcare and education. Children who do not receive the education and medical treatment they need are more likely to become homeless and become targets of exploitation.

The roots of the street children phenomena are complex, necessitating comprehensive solutions that address poverty, family assistance, education, healthcare, and societal stability. Understanding and resolving these core causes allows us to strive toward establishing a society in which every kid has a safe and caring environment in which to develop and thrive.

The issue of street children in Lomé has elicited a variety of reactions from the government and community members. The government has launched attempts to address the underlying causes of this problem, including poverty, a lack of access to education, and family breakup. These efforts include social protection programs,

educational activities, and community support services, which are supported by international organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, and the International Labour Organization. In addition to official agencies, civil society organizations have been instrumental in alleviating the suffering of Lomé's homeless children. These groups have set up outreach programs, shelters, and rehabilitation centers despite the challenges they face in order to provide these kids with a secure environment, a quality education, and career training. These organizations also work to raise public awareness of the issues facing street children and to advocate for changes in legislation.

A few nearby private sectors and places of worship have also thrown their support behind the initiative, offering street youngsters resources, financing, and mentorship opportunities. Their participation made it possible for these kids to rebuild their futures and reintegrate into society. Even with all of this help from many actors, the growth of this phenomenon which primarily impacts children continues throughout Togo's cities.

The government and different actors such as NGOs and the community have all responded in different ways to Lomé's street kid problem. Even while the collective efforts of these various stakeholders have greatly alleviated the demands of street children, the issues persist, and these remedies are not long-term. To give these vulnerable children with long-term help, their partnership must be reinvigorated.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

To enable the various structures involved in resolving the phenomenon of street children in Lome to effectively achieve the objectives assigned which consist of offering a better future and a good living condition to street children, it is necessary to establish a lasting partnership of all stakeholders which takes into account all the sustainable development objectives based on people. It is in this dynamic that this chapter will take care of defining the framework of the partnership of the public sector, the private and the community on the one hand and the establishment of the partnership while respecting the principles of sustainability and finally, taking into account the first 5 Sustainable Development Goals in resolving the phenomenon of street children in Lome, Togo

5.1 Guidelines for Public-Private-People Partnerships in Solving the Phenomenon of Street Children in Lome, Togo

The problem of street children in Lome, Togo, can be greatly helped by collaborations between the public, private, and individual sectors. Setting clear rules that encourage cooperation and efficacy is crucial to the development of these kinds of alliances. Any relationship should be built on the principles of responsibility and openness first and foremost. It is important for all parties involved public, private, and civil society to be open and honest about their contributions, roles, and duties. By being transparent, we can increase confidence and make sure that resources are used wisely. Second, a needs-based strategy ought to be used. It is critical to comprehend the unique requirements and difficulties that street children in Lome experience. The partnership may customize its interventions to address the underlying causes of the problem of

poverty, family dissolution, or limited access to healthcare and education by carrying out comprehensive needs assessments.

Additionally, sustainability ought to be the partnership's priority. This entails creating long-term repairs rather than just band-aids. Through financial assistance for school, career development, and family support initiatives, the collaboration can enable homeless children to create better lives for themselves. Inclusion needs to be a guiding concept as well. Involved parties in decision-making should incorporate the voices of street children as well as their families and communities. Their knowledge and expertise are quite helpful in creating successful solutions.

Finally, the collaboration must be flexible and receptive to new ideas. Since the problem of street children is intricate and dynamic, the partnership should be open to modifying its plans in light of fresh data and developing patterns. Accepting innovation can produce results that are more long-lasting and significant. Public-private-people partnerships can effectively address the issue of street children in Lome, Togo, by following these principles. When they work together, they can provide these at-risk kids with a better future and advance the community as a whole.

5.1.1 Clear Roles and Responsibilities of Related Actors

The principles for establishing a sustainable PPPP partnership generally include transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, social and environmental sustainability, as well as the creation of shared value. These principles aim to ensure that the partnership benefits all parties involved while taking into account the long-term needs of children and the interests of communities.

In order to achieve effective collaboration among all stakeholders and their role in the implementation of this partnership, broad participation is required from all the stakeholders that make up society. One of the first actors is the government. This government is made up of the Ministry of Social Action and the Protection of Women; the Ministry of Planning and Development and Cooperation and Unicef, as well as community leaders from the city of Lome. The Ministry of Social Action and Women's Protection is responsible for developing policies and programs and providing equipment and logistics for services that intervene in the protection of children to facilitate their service. It is responsible for coordinating efforts and providing financial

means as well as monitoring programs that will help resolve the phenomenon of street children in Lome. The Ministry of Planning and Development is responsible for supervising coordination with Unicef and Plan International Togo for the implementation of programs and projects selected for the resolution of this phenomenon of street children in Lome. Concerning Unicef, it is responsible for implementing the national program for the protection of children, particularly street children. He is responsible for monitoring achievements and works with the community leaders of Lome and parents. Organizations, namely Plan International Togo and the Togo Red Cross, register children in street situations to be placed in care centers in Lome with a view to protecting them against vulnerability.The second actor is non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose role is to contribute to the provision of direct services, namely the accommodation of children on the one hand, their education, health, and on the other hand reintegration of social security as well as the protection of the rights of these children in vulnerable situations.

There must also be a strong contribution from national or local private companies which can provide financial means such as banks to provide employment and professional training opportunities to children and, as far as possible, to offer aid in kind allowing to improve the living conditions of these street children and their parents.

The local communities to which these children belong also play an important role in the success of this partnership. They play an important role in providing social support through participation in awareness and training sessions by identifying the needs of these children at the local level and helping to facilitate reintegration into their society. This is possible thanks to the mobilization of community leaders and religious leaders who influence these communities.

The contribution of international agencies and donors intervenes to help countries in the implementation of strategies and programs and to support them in the search for financing, additional resources, and strategic advice and experience to strengthen programs in the dynamics of the fight against the phenomenon of vulnerable children. By coming together, the different actors will be able to unite their capacity and means as well as know-how in order to find an adequate and lasting solution and reserve an approach based on the needs of street children and their community.

5.1.2 The Functional Links Between the Different Partners

PPPPs require a functional link between these different actors to effectively resolve the phenomenon of street children through collaboration, coordination, and complementarity and their capacity. Concerning the principle of collaboration, these different actors work together with the Ministry of Social Action and the Protection of Women; the Ministry of Planning and Development and Cooperation and Unnicef by sharing their skills to develop integrated solutions efficiently. The principle of coordination for its part requires that the actions of the different actors can be aligned and harmonized to eradicate duplication, offer optimal use of resources, and ensure a coherent approach to resolving the phenomenon of street children.

Ultimately, the principle of complementarity requires that each actor operating in their field can make their unique contribution based on their expertise, resources, and capacities which will make it possible to fill the void and respond qualitatively to the different needs of street children. The establishment of this solid functional link according to the principles of collaboration, coordination, and complementarity leads the actors to capitalize on their efforts effectively in solving the problem of street children sustainably.

5.1.3 Taking into Account the First 5 Sustainable Development Goals in Resolving the Phenomenon of Street Children

In order to effectively respond to the problem of street children, the programs implemented by the government and its partners which are Unicef, Plan Internationale Togo, the Togo Red Cross, and community members must take into account the five first sustainable development goals: No poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-bieng, quality education and gender equality.

SDG 1 No Poverty: By giving street children and their families access to school, career training, and work possibilities, initiatives focused at lowering the number of street children can contribute to the reduction of poverty.

SDG 2 Zero Hunger: Initiatives to address the issue of street children can contribute to a decrease in food insecurity and poverty by granting access to sufficient food, nutrition programs, and health services. starvation.

SDG 3 Good Health and well-being: Initiatives to address mental health, drug misuse, vaccinations, and access to basic healthcare are critical to enhancing the health and well-being of street children.

SDG 4 Quality Education: Initiatives to address the issue of street children support high-quality education for all by facilitating access to formal and non-formal education, putting in place academic catch-up programs, and encouraging literacy.

SDG 5 Gender equality: In order to address the issue of street children, efforts must include the unique requirements of both boys and girls, guaranteeing that they have equal access to services such as health care and education.

The achievement of all these first 5 sustainable development goals is possible to fulfill the diverse needs of these children while also contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development objectives by incorporating these objectives into policies and programs aimed at addressing the issue of street children.

5.1.4 Monitoring and Assessing the Outcomes of Public-Private-People Partnership to Address Street Children Phenomenon

The following factors may be included in the process for monitoring and assessing the outcomes of the public-private-people partnership to address the issue of street children:

5.1.4.1 Performance indicators: Establish clear and measurable criteria for evaluating the partnership's efficacy, such as the number of street children reintegrated, participation rates in educational programs, and the number of families getting help.

 5.1.4.2 Data Collection: Create a data collecting system to frequently review the partnership's progress, capturing critical information on activities completed, outcomes attained, and difficulties encountered.

5.1.4.3 Periodic Evaluation: Conduct periodic evaluations to analyze the effectiveness of projects, identify areas for improvement, and modify tactics based on lessons gained.

5.1.4.4 Progress Report: Prepare regular progress reports to explain accomplishments, challenges overcome, lessons gained, and suggestions for the partnership's continued success.

5.1.4.5 Stakeholder participation: Involve diverse stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation process, soliciting input, taking into account their perspectives, and including their contributions into the result analysis.

The public-private-people- partnership for the resolution of the street child phenomenon can measure its impact, enhance its interventions, and report openly on its activities by putting in place a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This will help to address the complex problem in a more efficient and long-lasting manner.

5.2 Summary of Research Findings

The situation for street children is complicated for a variety of reasons. Poverty is a major reason of the existence of street children. Children from many low-income households are forced to live on the streets since their parents are unable to support them. In various conditions, young children may have been abandoned or lost their parents, prompting them to seek shelter and nutrition in public places.

Another element contributing to the problem of street children is the dissolution of households. Substance addiction, marital violence, and parent death are some of the conditions that may contribute to this. Without a safe and supportive family environment, children may end up on the streets looking for acceptance and a way to survive. Children may become homeless as a result of limited access to healthcare and education. Children who do not obtain the education and medical care they require are more likely to become homeless and victims of exploitation.

The causes of the street children phenomenon are numerous, and need comprehensive solutions addressing poverty, family support, education, healthcare, and societal stability. Understanding and addressing these root causes enables us to work toward a society in which every child has a safe and caring environment in which to grow and thrive.

The issue of street children in Lomé has inspired a wide range of responses from the government and community people. The government has initiated initiatives to address the root causes of this issue, such as poverty, a lack of access to education, and family breakdown. These initiatives include social protection programmes, educational activities, and community support services, which are funded by international

organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, and the International Labour Organisation. In addition to state institutions, civil society groups have played an important role in improving the plight of Lomé's homeless children. Despite the obstacles they confront, these organizations have established outreach programs, shelters, and rehabilitation facilities to give these children with a safe environment, a decent education, and job training. These groups also attempt to increase public awareness about the difficulties that street children face and fight for legislative improvements.

The project has also received backing from a few local private sectors and houses of worship, which are providing resources, funding, and mentoring opportunities to the homeless youth. These children's ability to reconstruct their futures and reintegrate into society was made possible by their participation. This street children phenomenon, which mostly affects youngsters, is still spreading throughout Togo's cities despite the assistance of several actors. The government and different actors such as NGOs and the community have all responded in different ways to Lomé's street kid problem. Even while the collective efforts of these various stakeholders have greatly alleviated the demands of street children, the issues persist, and these remedies are not long-term. To give these vulnerable children with long-term help, their partnership must be reinvigorated.

A sustainable PPPPs focuses on transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, social and environmental sustainability, and creating shared value. It benefits all parties involved while considering the long-term needs of children and community interests. Governments, NGOs, and private companies play key roles in implementing this partnership. Governments develop policies, programs, and resources to address street children, while NGOs provide direct services like accommodation, education, health, and reintegration of social security. Private companies provide financial means and employment opportunities, while local communities provide social support and facilitate reintegration. International agencies and donors support countries in implementing strategies and programs, while local communities mobilize community leaders and religious leaders. By working together, different actors can find a lasting solution based on the needs of street children and their communities.

For PPPPs to successfully handle the issue of street children, there must be a functioning relationship between various players. Coordination aligns activities to remove redundancy, complementarity enables each actor to contribute uniquely, and collaboration entails sharing abilities. In order to meet the needs of street children, this enables a cogent strategy that makes use of resources and skills. This strategy makes lasting solutions possible.

The first five sustainable development goals No poverty, zero hunger, good health, and well-bieng, quality education and gender equality must be addressed in order to address street children. By providing people access to employment opportunities, job training, and education, poverty-free projects can lessen poverty. Enough food, nutrition programs, and health services can all help to end hunger. Initiatives promoting health and well-being can enhance access to healthcare, immunization rates, and mental health. Gender equality and high-quality education guarantee that boys and girls have equal access to services.

In order to solve the issue of street children, a public-private partnership should involve stakeholder engagement, performance metrics, data collecting, frequent review, and progress reporting. These elements aid in evaluating the partnership's efficacy, pinpointing areas in need of development, and offering transparent updates on its status. The partnership can better address the complicated problem in a more effective and long-lasting manner by incorporating a variety of stakeholders and measuring its effectiveness, improving solutions, and reporting on its activities.

Given the results obtained following interviews carried out and documentary studies on the issue of street children in Togo, and the partnership for the resolution of this phenomenon of street children in Lome, it should be noted that this phenomenon affects children street violence exists and is manifested through the presence of children in the street and at traffic lights as well as the involvement of certain children in certain activities in markets and shopping centers to provide their service to the population. This is noted through the responses of the majority of participants in this study as well as the presence of child protection programs and policies.

5.3 Theoretical Discussions

The results of the research in this dynamic of the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome are similar to the research of Asan and Nicole (2019) who affirm that economic poverty constitutes an important factor which puts parents in a condition of vulnerability and which consequently pushes children to end up on the street in order to try to take care of themselves. In the same sense, the causes of the presence of children in the street are consistent with that supported by Djonoukou (2006) who agrees in the same direction by affirming that in several countries which face this situation of street children, one of the important elements underlying this phenomenon is the precarious situation and economic poverty of the population. As part of this research on street children in Lome, the results obtained are in agreement with previous statements about the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome. Concerning the causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome, the results of this study revealed several factors which are on the one hand, the structural factors and on the other hand the individual factors. The structural factor is manifested through the results of the interviews carried out with the various child protection actors in Lomé by economic poverty as well as by the poor distribution of national income.

The causes of low agricultural production according to the result of this stud is in perfect agreement with the studies of Simon (2008) who mentions the low production and yield of agricultural activity in the villages which is the basis of the massive movement of the population towards the cities. According to the results of this study, the massive movement of people towards the city of Lome is due to the deterioration of agricultural production conditions at the rural level and the low average income. This is confirmed by the ideas of Simon (2008) in the literature review.

Regarding urbanization conditions, the results of this study are aligned with the analyses of Redman (1999) and Ritchie and Roser (2018). According to Redman (1999), the conditions of poverty of the population push them to move towards the most urbanized centers which have more means of production and which offer many more employment opportunities.

The second factor which is at the basis of this phenomenon of street children is the individual factor because it concerns individuals in a particular way and their behavior which pushes them to make decisions. According to the results of this study, violence on the part of parents and family members is considered to be a cause that pushes children to choose the path of the street. Faced with the violent behavior of certain parents, the children decide to flee the house to find themselves in the street which offers more freedom. This result is in the same direction as the results of Lalor (1999), who states that most children in street situations are most often victims of violent behavior from their parents or loved ones. This violence sometimes occurs because of the economic or social situation of the family. There is also a portion of children who are orphans either of their father or mother. The results of this study show that among street children registered in care centers a majority are orphans. This result is in agreement with the analysis of Saheli et al. (2022) which shows that the presence of children in street situations is due to the death of their parents.

Along the same lines, the results of this study correspond to the results of Marguerat (1998), who asserts in his research that children found on the street are victims of poverty and neglect on the part of their families. Moving in the same direction as Djonoukou (2006), the separation of parents constitutes an important element to take into account in the presence of children on the street. According to the results of this research, it is proven that some street children come from divorced parents. It should be remembered that the number of members within the family and culture also play an important role on children. Concerning the number of people, families who have a high number and who do not have enough means to provide for the needs of the children constitute an opportunity to push the children to go and ask on the street. It is the same as the culture of a certain religion which pushes and encourages the life of begging. In the 'Islamic' religion, it is normal for a person who has no means to go and beg for money in the street. It is in this same sense that Nasir and Siddiqui (2017) state that the size and culture of certain families could be at the origin of the presence of children on the street.

The conformity of the results obtained through this study with the results of different researchers as Marguerat (1998), Redman (1999), Lalor (1999), Djonoukou (2006), Simon (2008), Nasir and Siddiqui (2017), Ritchie and Roser (2018), Asan and

Nicole (2019) on different causes of the phenomenon of street children in Lome which relates to structural and individual factors show the importance of these factors in this phenomenon. These results show that the multiple factors, whether in terms of economic poverty or violence exerted on children in their families, have a significant impact on all vulnerable populations, whether at the urban or rural level.

The resolution of each problem that society encounters deserves a response from the government and the various actors who fight for the well-being of the population. It is in the same sense that the results of this research show that following the emergence of the phenomenon of street children in Lome, the government of Togo and the different actors each took the initiative to find solutions to this phenomenon of street children. We can cite, among other things, the taking into account of programs in the development of national policy and the development of the National Development Plan for the period 2018 and 2022. Several interventions have been carried out in the area of night nutrition for children as well as child protection across ministries. At the level of non-governmental organizations, actions have also been carried out to resolve this problem faced by children in this street situation in Lome. Despite the various actions undertaken by the different actors, namely the State and other non-state actors, the phenomenon continues to gain momentum. The analysis of the results of this research showed that the different actors do not have perfect control of the causes of the phenomenon of street children. This explains their weakness in solving the problem of street children. Each actor must understand the economic and social dimensions of the problem and its evolution. The results of the research have shown that the intervention of certain actors does not sufficiently take into account all the dimensions, whether economic, social, or even psychological, of the problem. It is then important to understand these different factors to provide timely results. This is what highlights the importance of this study on the phenomenon of children in street situations in Lome.

Research on the Public-Private-People Partnership in Lome made it possible to realize that as part of the resolution of this phenomenon of street children in the city of Lome, there is a partnership between the actors at the level of the The State and the various partners which are the private sectors and civil society organizations as well as international organizations such as UNICEF. This partnership is materialized by the various work and intervention agreements of the actors on the resolution of the

children's problem. The results of the research made it possible to note the partnership between UNICEF and the Togolese government as well as certain organizations which intervene in the field of child protection. This Collaboration makes it possible to improve the intervention of different actors in the search for solutions for street children in Lome. On the contrary, the observation following this study shows that the phenomenon is evolving despite this intervention by the actors. This is reflected in the weak involvement of the community in solving this problem of street children in Lome. A large part of the population is not sufficiently informed about the different projects and programs adopted to combat the evolution of this phenomenon of street children in the city of Lome. The weak involvement of communities in the implementation of projects and programs to resolve this problem of street children attests according to the results of this study carried out in the city of Lome that the partnership is not totally based on people as affirmed by the United Nations (2015), the collaboration between actors is a very important factor in resolving sustainable development goals, so this collaboration must put people at the center of these actions. It is therefore important to revitalize the various actors, including community leaders, to get involved in the realization of this partnership. Resolving this phenomenon of street children requires good control of certain sustainable development objectives to facilitate sustainability in the results obtained by the actors. According to Witte and Reinick (2005), the involvement of different stakeholders is an important factor in the implementation of sustainable development objectives. It is in this same sense that Bademci and Karadayi (2013) noted the importance of the partnership between the different actors because of its capacity to be able to resolve social problems, in this case, the problems encountered by street children. This partnership approach was also initiated and encouraged by the United Nations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (UNDP, 2016).

There is complementarity between the implementation of the public-private partnership of the people and the achievement of the first five sustainable development objectives which consist of the reduction of poverty, the elimination of hunger, good education, good health and equality between the sexes. Bringing together these different sectors will make it possible to pool all the forces and opportunities which will allow us to know in depth the causes and consequences of the phenomenon and to be properly

equipped for a lasting resolution. It is in this same dynamic that Witte and Reinick (2005) emphasized the importance of the multiple actors who participate in achieving the SDGs.

5.4 Recommendations for Future Study

The results of this on "Towards Poblic-Private-People Partnership for solving the street children phenomenon in Lome, Togo" showed the importance of the factor of economic poverty of the population in urban areas. This fact is characterized by the structural cause of the phenomenon of street children in the city of Lome. The results of the study revealed that the low level of parental income and the poor distribution of income accentuated poverty among parents. This has a consequence on the living conditions of children who may later find themselves on the street. This situation leads the researcher to reflect on the economic and social conditions of parents in the city of Lome in the future. This study will make it possible to analyze the economic and social conditions of parents. The analysis of their economic and social condition will help the researcher to understand the evolution of access to employment and the quality of their income as well as access to basic social services and finally to understand the independence that these conditions may have on their children's lives in the future

Research on "Towards Poblic-Private-People-Partnership for solving the street children phenomenon in Lome, Togo" has revealed that a large proportion of these children victims of the street phenomenon are those who have suffered violence from their parents or a member of their family. family. On this basis, future research should particularly examine child violence to understand the causes in order to propose solutions.

This study also revealed that non-governmental organizations are playing a bigger role in Lome. As a result, it will be important to analyze how non-governmental organizations are becoming more involved in finding solutions for problems facing children on the streets or in enhancing the well-being of kids in Togo in future research. As a result, future research on the urbanization phenomenon of cities like Tsevie and Kara, located north of Lome, will enable an analysis of these cities' capacity to address

the social problems of street children and a comparison of the common causes and challenges of these cities, with the goal of formulating general recommendations that take into account all of Togo's cities. This is because these cities, like Lome, are experiencing strong urbanization at these times with an increase in needs.

5.5 Conclusion

A sustainable PPPPs focuses on transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, social and environmental sustainability, and creating shared value. It benefits all parties involved while considering the long-term needs of children and community interests. Governments, NGOs, and private companies play key roles in implementing this partnership. Governments develop policies, programs, and resources to address street children, while NGOs provide direct services like accommodation, education, health, and reintegration of social security. Private companies provide financial means and employment opportunities, while local communities provide social support and facilitate reintegration. International agencies and donors support countries in implementing strategies and programs, while local communities mobilize community leaders and religious leaders. By working together, different actors can find a lasting solution based on the needs of street children and their communities.

For PPPPs to successfully handle the issue of street children, there must be a functioning relationship between various players. Coordination aligns activities to remove redundancy, complementarity enables each actor to contribute uniquely, and collaboration entails sharing abilities. In order to meet the needs of street children, this enables a cogent strategy that makes use of resources and skills. This strategy makes lasting solutions possible.

The first five sustainable development goals gender equality, adequate health and well-being, zero hunger, zero poverty, and high-quality education must be addressed in order to address street children. By providing people access to employment opportunities, job training, and education, poverty-free projects can lessen poverty. Enough food, nutrition programs, and health services can all help to end hunger. Initiatives promoting health and well-being can enhance access to healthcare,

immunization rates, and mental health. Gender equality and high-quality education guarantee that boys and girls have equal access to services.

In order to solve the issue of street children, a public-private partnership should involve stakeholder engagement, performance metrics, data collecting, frequent review, and progress reporting. These elements aid in evaluating the partnership's efficacy, pinpointing areas in need of development, and offering transparent updates on its status. The partnership can better address the complicated problem in a more effective and long-lasting manner by incorporating a variety of stakeholders and measuring its effectiveness, improving solutions, and reporting on its activities.

Regarding the journey undertaken, the study issue "Towards Public-Private-People-Partnership for solving the street children phenomenon in Lome, Togo", the concerns connected to the causes of the phenomena of street children in Lome were addressed, as well as the involvement of the players in the resolution of this phenomenon that children confront in the city of Lome. The findings presented at the end of this study allowed for an analysis of the existing partnership between the various actors in solving the problem of street children in Lome, as well as the evolution of the phenomenon from day to day, despite the efforts of the government, civil society actors, and international organizations. To that aim, a proposal was made to form a new partnership focused on people, with a focus on implementing the country's development goals in order to permanently address the issue of street children in Lome.

The qualitative analysis of the results obtained from this on street children in Lome made it possible to highlight the different factors that are at the origin of the phenomenon of street children, namely the structural factors that are manifested by the economic poverty of relative needs. the management and distribution of national income as well as the establishment of essential services for the benefit of the population and in particular children on the one hand.

On the other hand, there is the individual factor that relates to the behavior of people which leads them to make decisions, namely to choose to take the path of the street. Among these elements, we can cite violence, divorce of couples, and abuse of all kinds carried out on children in their families. The results revealed intervention by the government and partners involved in the field of child protection. Research has shown the existence of a partnership between State actors and international

organizations as well as associations. Despite these collaborative efforts, the situation of street children continues to increase in the city of Lome.

It is in this context that the importance of this study is found, which firstly allows us to identify the multiple causes of the phenomenon of street children and to know the efforts of all the actors in the resolution of this phenomenon and secondly to identify place the insufficiencies in the implementation of the existing partnership in the resolution of this phenomenon and by proposing a new strategy which allows the accountability of the different actors and to involve the communities as well as the population concerned in the resolution of the problem of children of street in the city of Lome. This research is generally in the interest of organizations, government, and communities who are in collaboration for the improvement of the living conditions of populations, and specifically it will benefit children who are in the street situation in the city of Lome. These children will have an improved living condition and will be able to easily reintegrate into social life as desired by the United Nations, which said to leave no one behind in the development process (UN, 2015)

The interest of this study is to enable the different actors to have the necessary tools to deal with this phenomenon of street children. It also allows for new intervention strategies for stakeholders in other areas, whether social or economic, such as the energy and drinking water difficulties that the Togolese population is going through at these times. On the academic level, this study made it possible to explore a rich review of literature which made it possible to put in place this new partnership strategy that other researchers will be able to consult and use within the framework of their academic research.
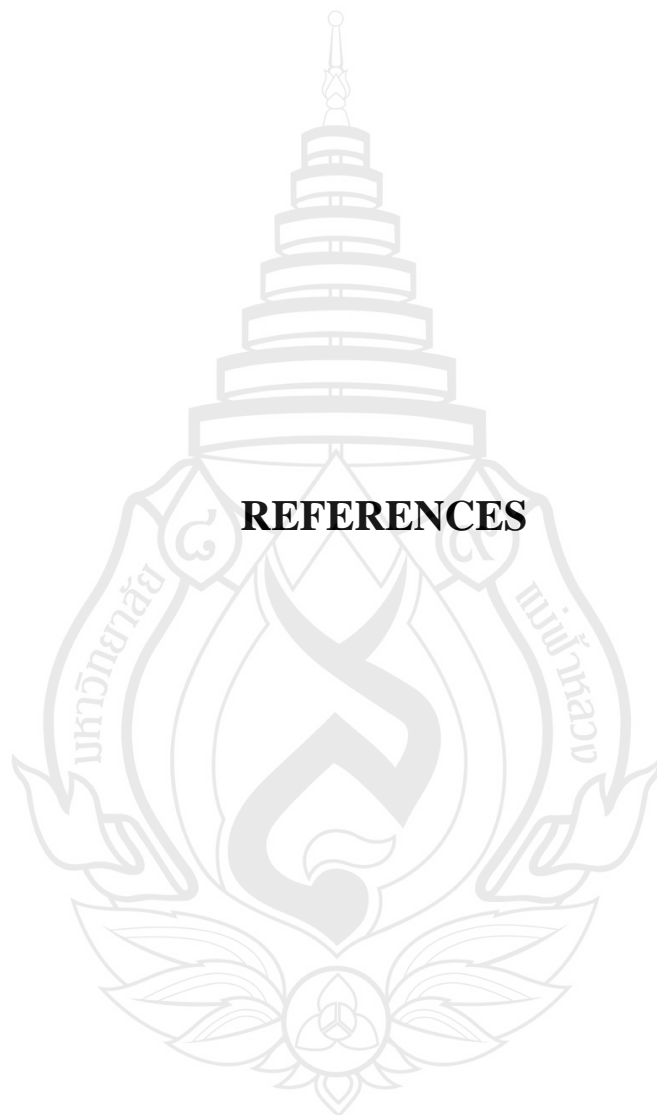
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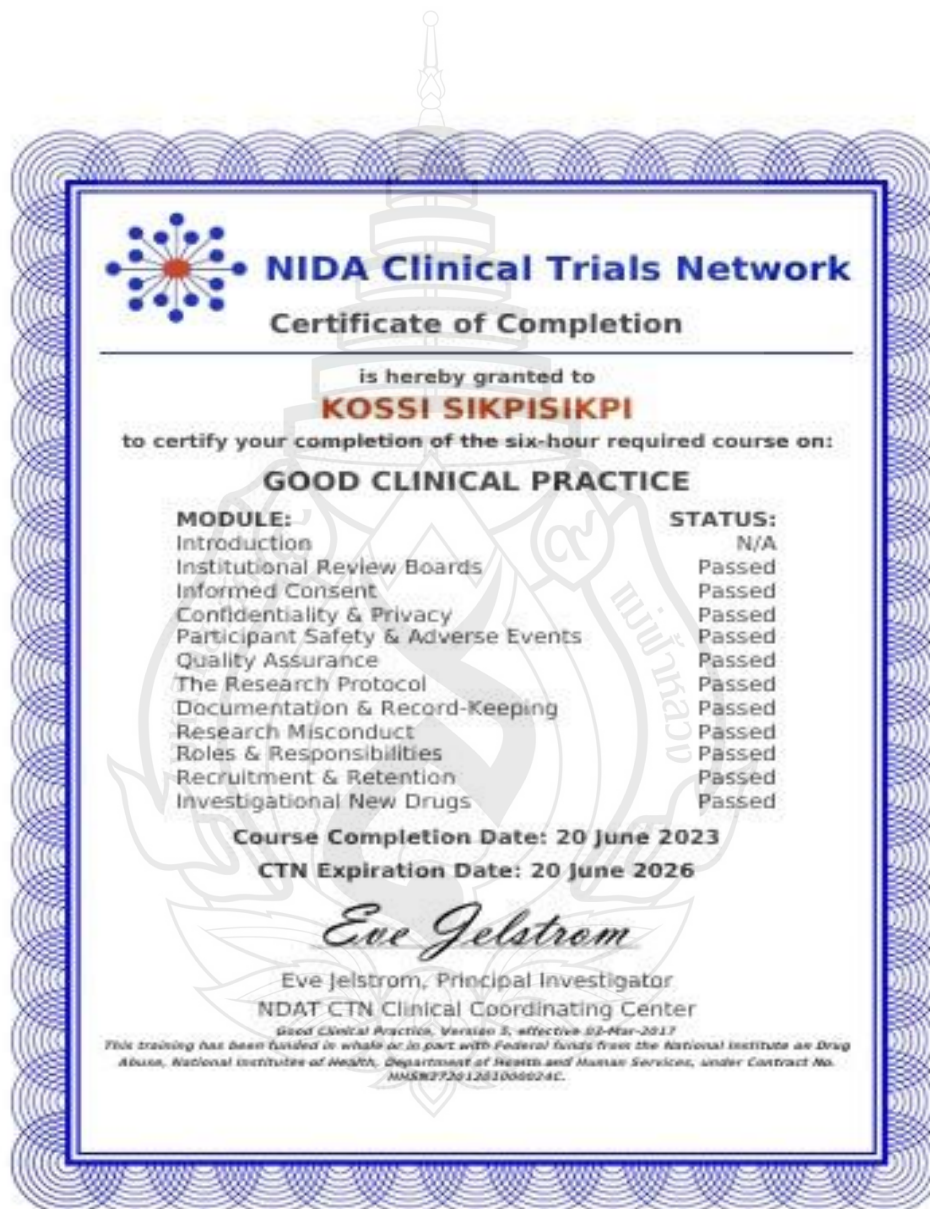
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION SDGS

APPENDIX B

CERTIFICATE FOR ETHIC TRAINING

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME   Kossi Sikpisikpi

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

2009   Professional Bachelor's degree in planning,

                                        monitoring and evaluation of local

                                        development projects and programs and

                                        Economy; Development Planning option, in

                                        Faculty of Economics and Management

                                        Economics;
                                        University of Kara in Togo.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2009   Executive Assistant at the General

                                        Directorate of Planning, Development and

                                        Regional Planning, at the Ministry attached

                                        to the President of the Republic responsible

                                        for Planning, Development and Territorial

                                        Development.

2019   Return to duty at the regional directorate of

                                        development planning and land use planning

                                        in Kara. Ministry attached to the President of

                                        the Republic responsible for Planning,

                                        Development and Territorial Development.

2019	Focal point, responsible for the community radio monitoring program in the Kara region in partnership with UNICEF.
2020	Study manager, a specialist in development planning at the regional planning and development directorate in Kara, Togo.