

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Togo





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY

Togo

June 2008

Prepared by:



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ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



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Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

- Family composition
 - 63% - two parent family
 - 14% - one parent has died
 - 17% - parents are divorced or separated
 - 3% - both of their parents have died
 - 9% - live with a grandparent
 - 5% - do not live with an adult

- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 31% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 28% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
 - Function of family
 - Place for children –
 - 9% consider unmarried men and women with children a family
 - 9% consider a single women with children a family
 - Relationship –
 - 12% consider unmarried man and women a family
 - 13% consider cohabiting divorced women a family

- Relationship with parents
 - 50% spend 15 minutes or less per week talking with their fathers about things that really matter
 - 33% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 30% spend 15 minutes or less per week talking with their mothers about things that really matter
 - 50% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter

- Safety and Security of home
 - 16% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 25% are uncomfortable and rather be elsewhere

- Marriage
 - 91% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 91% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 51% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 23% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 24% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce
 - 16% report there is too much pressure to get married
 - 16% would rather live together without marriage

- Sexuality
 - 28% have had sexual intercourse
 - Most likely to learn about sex from classmates or friends, TV or movies, textbooks sex-related magazines/books
 - They are least likely to learn about sex from sex from the internet, followed by their parents

- Satisfaction with Life
 - 42% of respondents indicate they are very satisfied and 29% somewhat satisfied with their lives
 - Over the past three months
 - 33% indicate they have lied to older people in their lives and 48% to their peers
 - 10% have attempted suicide
 - Boys are more likely to have watched pornography or gambled
 - Girls are more likely to have had suicidal thoughts

- Influences
 - 53% Christianity & 20% Islamic Faith
 - 50% Bible
 - 47% Parents
 - 47% Text books
 - 43% Teachers

- Moral behavior
 - 65% feel people know that something is morally right if it works in their life
 - 61% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 49% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 36% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone

- Factors providing future satisfaction
 - 89% having a degree
 - 89% good physical health
 - 88% owning a large house
 - 84% relationship with God
 - 84% high-paying job

- Religious Practice
 - 88% religion is somewhat or very important to them
 - 63% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 58% participate in weekly or daily religious activities
 - 45% read scriptures, including the Bible or Koran, weekly or daily
 - 46% attend a youth group weekly or daily
 - 22% attend a youth group larger than 60

Strengths and Opportunities

- Two of three students seem to have a positive attitude toward family
- Four out of five expect to have a good marriage
- 20% spend more than four hours in meaningful conversation with fathers and 33% with mothers
- 30% report they are doing “good” or “excellent” in school
- Religion plays a significant role in their lives
 - At least half attend regular religious services, pray, and read scripture
 - More than 80% accept the tenants of monotheistic doctrine
 - 80% are likely to attend religious services after leaving home
- Religion, parents, textbooks, teachers and friends are influential
- They report that they are most likely to study or read in their free time

Weaknesses and Threats

- One in three do not have two parents or do not feel safe in their homes
- They do not recognize single parent homes as families
- Two of five are critical of their home life
- One in four are involved in at risk sexual behavior, higher for urban
- Most learn about sex from television
- Fifty to 65% exhibit poor moral foundations for decision making
- Thirty percent are not at all or not too satisfied with life
- Ten percent report having attempted suicide in the past three months, one in three considered it
- Urban youth are significantly more critical and less engaged with positive social attitudes
- They are more certain of the existence of ghosts than of God

Research Recommendations

- Research the underlying issues of dissatisfaction for urban youth
- Exert efforts to protect those who are unsafe and to encourage positive parenting
- Identify and support those who are dissatisfied with life and consider suicide
- Encourage abstinence from sex outside of marriage to reduce at risk HIV behaviors
- Prepare materials to provide a foundation for moral decision making

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries - OneHope International.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Togolese Ministry of Education, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students, volunteers and the Book of Hope Togo Staff.

The instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

Overview

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

As part of OneHope's *Spiritual State of the World's Children* study, the Attitudes and Behaviors of the Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in Togo:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

Research Methodology

The ABY survey is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for Togo. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in French. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible¹ schools segregated by population density (proportional to national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

¹ Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Project Overview

The time frame for data collection was October 2007 through January 2008. Gedeon Attiogbe served as the local Research Coordinator for the Togo research project. Oversight was provided by Kimberly Morrison and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Survey and assessed by Rene Paulson, Ph.D. The final report employs Dr. Paulson's analysis of the data and is supplemented with secondary data when applicable and primary qualitative data.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

Logistics

Review

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

The Togolese Ministry of Education provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Book of Hope Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

Verifying Access

Contact was made with the Heads of Schools, or their associates, prior to dates of interviews in order to prepare them to discuss the administration of survey instruments. Research Assistants then met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained by the local coordinator in Togo for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope headquarters representative on or about

12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, a OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

Implementation & Survey Administration

Data Collection

The survey was administered in the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent identified the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Togo.
- If the average class size at a school was more than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Togo.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 200 students were surveyed at each school.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database.

Section III: Profile of Youth in Togo

Data Qualifications

The sample set is balanced for gender and population density. However, the age distribution across populations is heavily weighted with older respondents, 16 years of age and older, in urban settings of over one million and younger students, 13 to 15 years of age, in rural settings of less than one hundred thousand.

Demographic Profile

The sample set is evenly distributed by gender across populations in rural and semi-rural areas. By age, the “younger than 15 years of age” group over represents females and males are overrepresented in the “16 years and older” set. The “over 16 years of age” is also heavily over-represented in the urban population. These limitations of sample distribution should be considered when assessing the age tables.

Most respondents (65%) are in the 6th through 8th grade. However, for the urban population, 44% are in the 10th grade due to over representation of older students in the sample of the urban population. Based upon the responses of from question 2 (see table Q2), it appears that there are a significant number of older students in lower grades. Fifty-three percent of students report that their grades are average and 21% stated their grades are good. Females are 6% more likely than males to report that their grades are average, but males are slightly more likely to report that their grades are good or excellent. By population density more densely populated areas report poorer grades.

Forty-two percent of students reported their father’s employment is agriculture, followed by 15% of respondents selecting “other”. “Other” may refer to a self-employed or unemployed status. Forty-seven percent of rural students and 22% of semi-urban students indicate that their father’s work is in agriculture. Twenty-one percent of urban and semi-urban students state their father’s profession is professional. Semi-urban students are twice as likely as their peers to report their parent’s profession is industrial. Thirty-four percent of students report that their mother works in agriculture, followed by service industry (30%). Semi-urban youth (35%) most frequently reported that their mother’s work is in the service industry. Urban youths reported a more than 37% increase over other populations that their mother’s work is “other”; this may indicate that the mothers are “stay at home” mothers or unemployed.

Slightly more than half (53%) live with their natural mother and father. Urban youth are 16% less likely to report living with their mother and father than their rural and semi-urban peers. One in five students live in a single parent home, most likely with their mother. However, urban students are also more likely than their peers to live with a single parent, especially a father. Urban students also are 8% more likely to live without an adult than rural students.

Family Relationships

Students in Togo define family in the context of marriage. Nearly two-thirds do not think of an unmarried couple with children as a family. However, children do make difference in perceptions of a “family unit” as only 9% consider an unmarried couple without children to be family. Only 17% accept a single woman with children as family. At least 66% reject all other living arrangements as adequate to meet conditions of “family.” Urban youth, however, are more likely to accept an unmarried man and

woman with children as a family unit (42%) than semi-urban and rural (7%). Overall, urban youth are significantly more liberal than their peers when it comes to accepting all other forms of non-traditional families.

There is high regard for marriage with 84% rejecting the idea that there is “too much pressure to get married, so they would rather live together.” Also, students rejected the idea (86%) of “admiring the single life.” Seventy-seven percent think that if there are children involved, parents should not get divorced. Youth indicate that the adults in their family are “interested in who they are,” “spend time with them,” “set good examples,” “trust them,” and “demonstrate love”. The students also responded positively that their parents demonstrated that they really love each other. They report that their own family experience has generally been positive (67%) and that they want a marriage like their parents (65%); however, it should be noted that 30% do not feel their family life has been positive and a similar number stated that they do not want a marriage like their parents. This correlates with 25% that indicate that their home is a place where they usually feel uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere; in urban setting this rises to 33%. Only 16% of those responding indicate that their home is a place where they feel safe and loved. About half agree that if “the traditional family fell apart, society would collapse,” showing skepticism about the benefit of families to society. Though 66% indicate that marriage is difficult, 76% disagree that marriages will end in divorce, believe that marriage problems are exaggerated, and that most people have successful marriages (71%). Seventy-one percent want to be a virgin at marriage and 78% agree that “if I wasn't a virgin now and I could change the past, I would wait to have sex after marriage.”

Females are significantly more supportive of family and value virginity more than males. Urban students are less likely to report a positive family experience and are more likely to believe that it is difficult to have a successful marriage, yet nearly all feel their marriage will be successful; 90% disagree that those marrying should expect it to end in divorce. Seventy-five percent of semi-urban youths want a marriage like their parents, as compared to rural (66%) and urban (31%).

About half of all respondents indicate that they are very close to their fathers. Fourteen percent state that their fathers are dead and 8% state that they are not close at all with their father. Overall, about half are proud of their fathers, show their love for their fathers, and feel their father frequently shows his love for them. Forty-five percent report that they sometimes or frequently do something special together. Forty percent report spending five minutes or less weekly with their fathers. Twenty percent of children reported spending 4 hours or more a week in conversation with their fathers. Females are less likely than males to do something special with their fathers. Semi-urban students are significantly more engaged with their fathers than their peers, reporting higher levels of interaction for all activities. Urban students reported much lower contact and less affinity in their relationships with their fathers.

Overall, 68% of students report that they are very close to their mothers, which is a 10% increase over the responses for “being very close with fathers.” Children are more likely to interact with their mothers than their fathers. However, it should be noted that to “seek advice” from mothers was the lowest response indicated by the students. Respondents report that they spend significant time talking with their mothers; 33% spend four hours or more per week and fewer than 21% spend less than 5 minutes talking about things that really matter. Males are more likely than females to report spending no time with their mothers.

Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex

Although as many as 35% indicate that they are more or very likely to engage in sexual intercourse if they were in a loving relationship, 62% indicate that sexual intercourse is never acceptable among unmarried people, paralleled by the opinion that more intense activities such as fondling also are unacceptable. In practice, 50% report that they have held hands with a member of the opposite sex, and overall 26% have engaged in sexual intercourse. Males are 9% more likely than females to have had sexual intercourse and nearly 50% of urban students have engaged in sexual intercourse compared to 25% of the peers in lower population densities.

Respondents are most likely to have learned about sex from TV/Movies, and least likely to have learned about sex from the internet and their parents.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Students report they are most influenced by religion; about 50% are very influenced by the Bible and Christian faith and 20% by Islam. Next, parents and textbooks are equally influential, followed by teachers then friends. After these influences, siblings and music are ranked, followed then by TV and religious leaders. With regard to media, 89% of respondents reported using media use at least occasionally with 45% reporting frequent use. These rates are higher for urban students. Political leaders and other religions are clustered at the end of the list.

Significant conditions that are desired for the future sense of well-being are almost equally valued: physical health, having a degree, material well-being, and a relationship with God. Other important conditions include having a clear purpose for living and having a high degree of integrity. Males are more likely to see material well-being, achieving fame or public recognition, and making a difference in the world as more significant than female respondents.

Seventy-one percent indicate that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their life. However, 26% report suicidal thoughts and 10% report having attempted suicide in the past three months. Females are 8% more likely to report having suicidal thoughts, although by gender there is no difference in the number that attempted suicide. Urban students reported the lowest rates of suicidal intent.

Forty-eight percent of those responding indicate that they have lied in the last three months, 25% have watched an X-rated/pornographic movie, or read a pornographic magazine. About 16% have intentionally attempted to hurt another person emotionally. Fourteen percent report having been drunk, 20% having gambled, and 5% having used tobacco. Males are much more likely than females to have watched pornography or gambled, and slightly more likely than females to have been drunk, used tobacco, or used illegal drugs. MTV plays a role in the lives of a significant percentage of the respondents with 77% watching at least once a week during the past three months.

The most frequent past time is reported as studying school materials, followed by reading a book, studying the Bible, and sleeping while on break. The least likely past time is watching TV and chatting on the internet or SMS. While males are somewhat more likely to look for information on the web, females are slightly more likely to watch TV. Urban students are much more likely to watch TV, listen to music, or sleep on a break than their peers. Semi-urban students are more likely to read a book, read the Bible, study from school materials, look for info on the web, or chat/SMS than their peers. Older students are less likely to spend time watching TV, and more likely to spend time sleeping while on break.

Seventy-six percent of respondents believe that “the Bible provides absolute moral truths that are the

same for all people in all situations, without exception,” however, more than half of the respondents demonstrate a pragmatic morality that regards truth as relative. This is evidenced by the 71% who say people may define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct, and 49% who report that they believe lying is sometimes necessary. There is also clear agreement shown as 65% agree that “you know that something is morally or ethically right if it works in your life” and 63% that say “when it comes to matters of morals and ethics, truth means different things to different people so no one can be absolutely positive that they have the truth.”

The rural population is consistently less likely to agree that it is ok to break or bend rules. Semi-urban students are consistently more likely to support Biblical truth and church attendance, but conversely are most likely to define truth in a relative way. The urban population is clearly the least likely to keep rules or to accept the value of religious and biblical truths. For the other variables, there are few statistically significant differences.

Religious Background and Practice

Overall, the largest percentage of respondents are Roman Catholic (45%) followed by Protestants (25%) and Muslim (17%). Semi-urban youth are 10% more likely to be Roman Catholic than their peers. Urban students are 7% more likely than their peers to claim no religion. With 18% of rural respondents Muslim, they are 5-8% more likely to be Muslim than their peers. These statistical differences in religious affiliation by population density should be noted when considering the values held by various populations.

Students evidence a high degree of assent on basic monotheistic doctrines taught both by Islam and Christianity. Ninety-five percent agree that “people will be judged by God after they die,” 91% that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin, 88% that the Bible is totally accurate in all of its teachings, and prayer can change what happens in life. Eighty-seven percent believe that all miracles described in the Bible actually took place and that they have the responsibility to tell other people about their religious beliefs. Ninety-one percent believe that the universe was created by God, 89% indicate that faith is important to them, and 81% that their religious beliefs recently changed their behavior. The overwhelming majority of students (86%) believe that God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect creator of the universe who rules the world today, although only 10% are certain of God’s existence. Fifty-eight percent consider Heaven and Hell as possible, but only 24% are certain. Sixty-nine percent believe that human souls do not die with the body and 12% are certain. However, 32% are certain that other popular religions are helpful.

Eighty-five percent heard about the Bible or Jesus in church, 62% from family or relatives, and 60% from friends or missionaries. On specific Christian doctrine, 84% also accept that Jesus Christ was a real person and forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. Eighty-two percent believe that people will earn a place in Heaven if they are generally good or do enough good things for others during their life, and they reject the idea that Jesus Christ committed sins like other people (80%). They also reject the idea that sin is not a relevant concept (73%), and affirm (72%) that Christianity is relevant, failure to accept Jesus will result in condemnation to hell (72%), and the physical resurrection of Jesus (70%).

Regarding life after death, 54% indicate that the confession of sins and acceptance of Jesus Christ are necessary for access to Heaven; urban respondents (70%) are more likely to believe this. Semi-urban and rural students are 11-13% more likely to believe “when you die you will go to Heaven because you have tried to follow the rites of a religion” than are their urban peers.

Seventy-seven percent of students report that religion is very important today, and 80% indicate that it is very important to them to attend religious services once they had moved away from home. Overall, 58% attend religious services weekly or daily and slightly more frequently than their family members, including mothers. Forty-seven percent of fathers are reported to attend religious services weekly or daily. As population increases, overall rates of attendance for religious services decrease. Semi-urban youth, mothers, and siblings are significantly more likely to attend religious services than are their peers.

Sixty-three percent of students report that they pray daily or weekly, 46% attend a religious youth group, over 40% read scripture (Bible or Koran), and around 50% attend religious studies or study scripture. Over 60% of students attend youth groups weekly. Of those, 22% attend a group that has 60 or more regular attendees and 14% a group of 10-19 attendees. Twenty-seven percent of urban youth chose the “does not apply to me” option most often. They are the least likely to participate in all religious activities, particularly scripture studies or religious training.

Overwhelmingly, the students responded (88%) that they had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today. Eighty-nine percent of the students made this commitment under the age of 16. It is evenly distributed across the age groups below 15 years of age.

By gender, males are 6% more likely than females to make this commitment between the ages of 16 and 18.

Urban youth are 6% less likely than semi-urban youth to have made a personal commitment to Christ. They are more likely to have made the commitment between the ages 13-15. Semi-urban were most likely to have made the commitment under the age of 12, especially under the age of 5.

Section IV: Togo Secondary Data

**Secondary Research Profile
TOGO**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION			
Population	5,548,702		
Population (under 15 yrs)	42%		
Child Protection > Child Labor 5 – 14 years, % total	60%		
Personal computers (per capita)	30.106 per 1 million people		
Mobile phone subscribers (per capita)	72.194 per 1 million people		
Radios (per capita)	174.074 per 1,000 people		
Televisions per capita	13.5185 per 1,000 people		
Life Expectancy	57.86yrs		
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	38.86 per 1,000 people		
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	60.6		
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	2,464,147 / 3,680,858 (2005)		
Largest City / Population	Lome – 366,476		
EDUCATION & LITERACY			
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	60.9%		
Primary Enrollment	64.8% (1995)		
Female enrollment share, Primary level	44.3%		
Literacy Rate – Males	46.9%		
Literacy Rate – Females	75.4%		
ECONOMICS			
GDP(per capita, Billions USD)	\$5,132.00		
Per Capita Income (USD)	\$900		
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	32.3%		
SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ² (out of 177)	143	Prisoners (per capita) (per 1,000,000)	46
Adult prevalence rate 15-49 with HIV AIDS (per 1,000)	19.293	Teen Pregnancy (15-19 yrs) (per 1000)	25-49
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Native African	99%	Indigenous beliefs (including animism)	51%
European and Middle Eastern	1%	Christian	29%
		Muslim	20%

This data is drawn from CountryWatch.com, World Health Organization, and public domain data. Statistics are generally from 2005 but may be earlier if none more recent are available.

² Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the UN's Human Development Report since 1993.

LANGUAGES
French, Ewe, Mina, Kabye, and Dagomba