



Roundtable: Persons With Disabilities in Togo

Ambassador Whitehead moderated a discussion on the needs of persons with disabilities in Togo, inviting activists, government officials, and representatives from charitable organizations working with persons with disabilities to take part. Participants included Supreme Court judge Apoka Zegba, who expounded on her struggles to establish and maintain access ramps to her offices and the challenges of simply getting to work.

The contributors concluded that the greatest problems facing the disabled community in Togo are a dearth of accessibility to public services and a lack of understanding from others as to what persons with disabilities need. As a result, Embassy Lomé agreed to review its assistance programs to insure that inclusivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities is considered in all of them. The embassy will also urge all potential grantees to consider the needs of those with disabilities when constructing their programs to insure access for all in the community.



DHAPP Program Managers Training in Atlanta



US Embassy Lomé's HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator joined representatives from 45 countries to take part in the Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP) *Program Managers Training* in Atlanta, Georgia.

The four-day conference covered a wide array of topics and was an opportune forum for DHAPP colleagues to share best practices and successes with one another. Other sessions covered technical updates, program improvements, and workshops, all of which will increase the program's effectiveness in each country.



- DHRF Update -

Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield has approved this year's Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) allocations. Togo will receive \$47,500, a \$7,500 increase from last year!

Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund (SSH) News

The Development Office selected and the Front Office approved twelve SSH projects with this year's \$50,000 grant. Thankfully, ventures involving construction are permissible again, which allowed for a much broader suite of promising projects to be funded. The signing ceremony will take place in August and details about the upcoming projects will be shared soon.

