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**Statement for the IWPA – The quest of water and women conditions**

In Europe, getting drinkable water from the tap, using water to wash the dishes are such easy actions to perform that it might be difficult to imagine a daily life which requires hours to do these small actions. In Togo, these challenges are what happens every single day for 56% of the rural population. They don't have access to drinkable water.

This deficiency strongly affects women who are the main actresses of water management. Their whole life is dictated by this search of water. In remote villages of the region of Tomety (in Togo), the quest of water can take hours and involves many round trips from contaminated sources : the only option in the surrounding areas. This shortage has many consequences on health, on women conditions, on girls education or on rural exodus, like this young dressmaker who decided to leave her village alone to move in another one where there was a well.

Very often, women have to combine the search of water with taking care of the children, cooking, cleaning the house... Very often the challenge is to find some time to go to the field to cultivate vegetables or to hold a small business that would bring a little financial independence.

Having access to drinkable water promotes the development of communities but above all, it contributes to the emancipation of women by giving them more time to move forward.