Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve.
The primary goal of the Empowering Female Community Health Workers to Provide Integrated Primary Care in Remote Communities in Northern Togo, West Africa is to replicate the impact observed in Integrate Health’s pilot of the Integrated Primary Care Program (IPCP) in new communities and to empower more female Community Health Workers (CHWs) to save an even greater number of lives. Over the duration of the project, IH will recruit, train, and equip over 132 new individuals to serve as CHWs in their communities. Empowered with the necessary skills and resources, motivated CHWs, who may have never had a chance to complete formal education, will provide home-based care and referrals to pregnant women and children under five in the Kozah, Bassar, Dankpen, Binah, and Kéran Districts of northern Togo.

Has funding changed for this project? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?
There have been no major funding changes for this project.

Is your organization or project situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant project staffing changes or NGO affiliations, loss of large funding or other significant changes?
There have been no major changes for this project.

Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refer to the original numbers in your grant proposal under Number of women and girls Directly Impacted and population Indirectly Impacted.
IH initially aimed to serve 76,409 women and children under five within a catchment area of 200,000. As part of ongoing work to update data systems and indicators to align with the Ministry of Health (MOH), IH has changed the source of population estimates, from data collected via annual household surveys to the 2010 national census figures. By using the 2010 national census...
figures, IH will be able to make important and necessary comparisons between IH and MOH sites. As a result of this update, IH population estimates have shifted. In FY21, IH served 79,219 direct beneficiaries, and a total population of 166,418. As of July 2021, IH will serve 89,399 direct beneficiaries and a total population of 204,810 through the Kozah, Bassar, Dankpen, Kéran and Binah districts.

**What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project?**

**How are you approaching the new challenges?**

National restrictions on COVID-19 have limited the number of in-person gatherings in Togo. With safety restrictions on gatherings, IH has been unable to carry out routine community meetings, which usually have crowds of up to 100 community members, leaders, IH staff, and government officials. To conform to restrictions, IH temporarily postponed community meetings from March 2020 until January 2021, and utilized that time to create a plan to engage the community safely. IH Program team decided to adjust community engagement meetings to only include CHWs, health center staff, and community leaders. Community members with concerns are additionally invited to attend. All participants must wear masks and remain socially distanced. This engagement allows IH to receive critical feedback from patients and iterate on programs as needed.

In January and February 2021, IH held community meetings across the Kéran and Dankpen districts. These meetings included representation from the local canton chiefs, head nurses from each clinic, CHWs, and the District Health Officials from the Ministry of Health (MOH). Although typically, community members would be invited to attend, with COVID-19 restrictions on meeting sizes, IH utilized canton chiefs and CHWs to spread information from the meetings to the community. During these meetings, IH reviewed program results, and answered any questions. IH will continue to hold community meetings in this way, until it’s safe to hold larger meetings.

The pause in community engagement meetings has reaffirmed how important community involvement is, to create buy-in, leadership, and spread important information across the communities IH serves. As COVID-19 continues to spread across Togo, IH will continue to adapt programming to meet all safety guidelines.

**Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?**
The Empowering Female Community Health Workers to Provide Integrated Primary Care in Remote Communities in Northern Togo, West Africa project, aims to achieve the following three outcomes:

- Increase facility-based delivery rates to 64%  
  o Updated to 81% to match national target set by MOH
- Ensure child health coverage of 89%  
  o Updated to 43% to match national target set by MOH
- Increase contraceptive coverage to 24%  
  o Updated to 29% to match national target set by MOH

Although targets have changed due to population estimates and aligning to the MOH definitions, they still lead to an increased number of women and children accessing and utilizing high quality healthcare services, which will in turn lead to improved health outcomes for women and children.

**What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.**

IH has achieved the following progress towards objectives:

- Increase facility-based delivery rates to 56% (updated to 81%)  
  o In FY21 to date (July 2020 – May 2021) IH has reached 89%
- Ensure child health coverage of 89% (updated to 43%)  
  o In FY21 to date (July 2020 – May 2021) IH has reached 65%
- Increase contraceptive coverage to 14% (updated to 29%)  
  o In FY21 to date (July 2020 – May 2021) IH has reached 37%

**Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeline outlined in your proposal?**

Integrate Health had originally planned to launch in the Kéran district in July 2020, but due to COVID-19, launch plans were delayed. From January to March 2020, IH completed routine activities for the launch of the Kéran district including hosting dozens of community meetings. In these meetings, IH introduced the Integrated Primary Care Program to the community and began a community-led recruitment process for new Community Health Workers (CHWs). Across all meetings, over 500 community members attended and submitted nominations for CHW candidates. In March 2020, the first COVID-19 cases reached Togo, and IH postponed the Kéran district launch, pivoting community engagement to focus on COVID-19 education.

From March onward, IH provided continuous high-quality primary healthcare with a focus on COVID-19 prevention. IH adapted service delivery to ensure that all IH staff and the communities served remained safe, and CHWs began adding COVID-19 education to all home visits. IH CHWs have always utilized gloves and hand sanitizer but were also equipped with masks and face shields for additional protection.
With a relatively low COVID-19 caseload in Togo, the government scaled down prevention measures, allowing IH to continue with the Kéran district launch activities with new safety protocols on an extended timeline from May until September 2020. The original July launch date was pushed to October 2020, to allow for additional launch activities to take place under safe launch protocols. To kick off the new launch, CHW candidate screening exams took place over two weeks in June to ensure only 15 candidates were examined per day, in an open-air, well ventilated area. After all candidates were screened, the top 50 CHW candidates were presented to village chiefs, in partnership with Kéran district health officials. From August to September, the new CHW candidates were trained and tested, in smaller batched group sizes. In September, IH hired the final 44 CHWs to represent their communities in the Kéran district. In October 2020, IH officially launched services in five clinics and their surrounding communities in the Kéran district to a population of 39,531.

Although the Kéran district launch was delayed due to COVID-19, the Binah district launch is on track for July 2021. With the Binah district launch, IH will conclude the five-year planned expansion.

**Conclusion**
IH is deeply grateful for the thoughtful and supportive partnership of Together Women Rise and sincerely appreciates your generous support.