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Her name is **Dédé**, it is tattooed on her arm. We call her "**Mama Benjamin**". She comes from a town called Vogan, in Togo. It is known to have one of the largest voodoo markets in West Africa.

Her Story: She was married as a young teen to an old man, and had 10 children, when he died she had to leave. She married again and had 2 more children, but he beat her often so she ran away only able to take baby Benjamin leaving 3 year old Gérard behind.

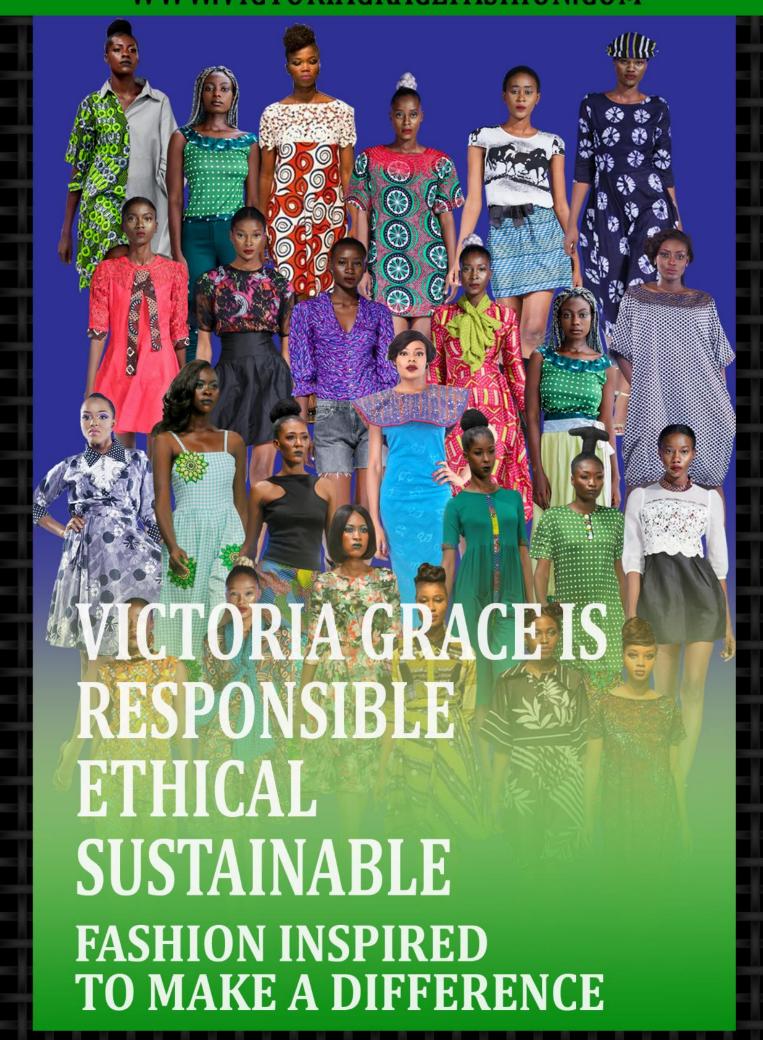
Mama Benjamin had 12 children, sadly, 5 died, 2 are missing, one's location is known but often changes, and the 3 younger ones lived separated, plus Benjamin her last baby. We found her carrying Benjamin, a starving and sick baby under the scorching sun, they were living on the streets, the beach and in the open markets in Lomé; she was about to watch another child die. With the state of them, we had to act immediately and rushed him to hospital for care. Today, he is well, we have reunited her with her 4 youngest, they all live together 'under a roof' and are in school. She has tried out her hand in a small business, but wants to go into farming, so now we hope to support her train and start organic farming under a community project.

*Her Children:* Chéché, 15 years old, he loves farming. Sonia her only daughter is 11 years old, she loves to read. **Gérard** is 5 years old, he is the cheeky and fun one, and **Benjamin**, her last child, now well, he loves being part of a family and no longer lives under the scorching sun. Today, they live, sleep and eat together as a family. All of them go to school and Déde is looking forward to starting organic and sustainable farming.

For more on Dédé and her family or others like her please visit our website www.victoriagracefashion.com

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