

Sèmè-Podji, Benin

The proposed City Deal in Sèmè-Podji, “my trash, my treasure”, brings diverse stakeholders together to develop a sustainable and **inclusive environmental management system** in the Agblangandan arrondissement, that will improve the quality of life of residents and help address the tandem **challenge of urbanisation and floods**. Attention will also be paid to **recycling and reuse of waste** towards value-added products, such as compost and biogas, in order to stimulate inclusive local economic development and a circular economy.

Project activities

- Training and coaching on multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Training and coaching on integral and anti-silo cooperation within the municipality
- Training and coaching on communication and public awareness for inclusive waste management
- Reinforce governance capacity development on inclusive waste management
- Technical advice to promote gender mainstreaming throughout the project
- Facilitation and support for pilot projects
- Support to develop and implement multi-stakeholder pilot projects on inclusive waste management
 - Facilitate citizen engagement and awareness for sustainable waste management
 - Facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings
 - Facilitation and support for integrated cooperation on inclusive waste management (cooperation with different departments)
 - Study visit to the Netherlands (2018)
 - Domestic study visit
 - On-demand city-to-city learning



Context

Whether one speaks to the municipal civil servants, the Mayor, a primary school principal or a farmer, recurrent floods are communally recognised to be the principal challenge to the municipality's governance and environment. Simultaneously, located between Benin's two capitals (political and economical) Cotonou and Porto-Novo, the municipality is experiencing a population growth that leads to rapid and often unplanned urbanisation. In this context, waste management poses a real environment challenge and tends to affect particularly the poorest within society. A City Deal provides an excellent approach to instigate an innovative collaboration in which each partner bears a certain responsibility in order to achieve an overarching goal together. In close concertation with the municipality of Sèmè-Podji solid waste management and its valorisation (circular economy) is identified as the most opportune sector to experiment with managing the constraints as well as seizing the opportunities of the tandem urbanisation and floods.

The project will take into account the different stages of the waste management, including the management of the recycling and the use of materials from waste, while aiming for the inclusion of marginalized groups in the community.

Results

The overall objective of the DEALS project in Sèmè-Podji is: to improve the quality of life of all inhabitants of the arrondissement Agblangandan in Sèmè-Podji by improving the waste management system. Improved sustainable and inclusive environmental management in Sèmè-Podji to deal with urbanisation.

Involved parties

- **City departments:** The Municipality of Sèmè-Podji, Services Techniques (ST), Service Affaires Domaniales (SAD), Service Affaires Sociales (SAS), Service Prospective Economique et Developpement des Ressources (SPEDR), Service Development et Décentralisation (SDCD), Affaires Générales, Affaires Juridiques, Caisse municipal
- **Governmental:** District-level Commission de Gestion des Déchets (COGEDES), Ministère Cadre de Vie, Direction Général de l'environnement et du climat, Programme national de gestion des changements climatiques, Agence l'environnement et le climat
- **Non-governmental:** The programme pursues active coordination of the public sector with other actors through a multi-stakeholder partnership. Specifically the following partners are identified: SMEs for waste collection, Research Centre Valdera, the Association of female gardeners, NGO on environmental protection. The project will align its activities with other projects from national or local governments and donor-funded development projects.



My trash, my treasure

Following the mission in August of two experts (one on the level of integral working and project management, the other on waste management and circular economy) the Focal Team of Sèmè-Podji started to take actions of which we start seeing the important results.



The first of these results concerns the inclusion of all relevant actors (incl. SMEs in charge of collection of waste) to the process of waste management of the municipality. Secondly, the policy for the prohibition of illegal waste dumps has been adopted by the municipality's council in October 2018. Last, but not least, the council has voted to create a dedicated budget line and augment its funds specifically for waste management in order to be able to scale up the activities and the method of the DEALS project to more areas of the municipality.

Mayor Charlemagne Honfo gave the DEALS project the nickname "My trash, my treasure".