

# 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 **challenge of urbanisation which is worsened by recurring 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 sustainability.

## Project activities

- Technical assistance
- Training and coaching on multi-stakeholder cooperation and anti-silo, integral cooperation within the municipality
- Training and coaching on communication and public awareness for inclusive waste management
- Reinforce governance capacity development on inclusive waste management
- Reinforce the government’s capacity to work closely together with the private sector (SGDS) as a partner by means of supporting their mutual cooperation
- Support the setting up of voluntary waste collection points in collaboration with SGDS
- 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 through campaigns such as the Zero Waste Week and sensitization cartoons

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## Context

Located between Benin’s two capitals (economic and political) Cotonou and Porto-Novo, Sèmè-Podji is a corridor, secondary city, experiencing a population growth that leads to rapid and often unplanned urbanisation. With continuous immigration from Cotonou and Porto-Novo, in ten years, the population almost doubled from 115,238 inhabitants in 2002 to 224,207 habitants in 2013, with an estimated projection to 280,241 for 2021. This equals an annual growth percentage of 6,24%. 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 (public and private) 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 is identified as the most opportune sector to experiment with managing the constraints, as well as seizing the opportunities of the rapid urbanisation of the city emphasised by the pressure of recurring floods.

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



- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings, such as synergy workshops
- Facilitation and support for integrated cooperation on inclusive waste management (cooperation with different departments) and its formalization into municipal practices

#### Learning and exchange

- Study visit to the Netherlands (2018)
- Domestic study visit
- On-demand city-to-city learning

## Results

As of 2020, the new mayor of Sèmè-Podji is Jonas Gbenameto, who gives his full support to the project: "We want to succeed in our mission. And for us, it is a question of taking seriously everything that can contribute to improving the lives of our citizens and their living environment. This is why we find the focus of this project important: waste management."

## Involved parties

- *City departments:* Rural and Environmental Management Secretariat, Planning Secretariat, Social Development Secretaria, Legal Secretariat
- *All government parties:* Municipal Waste Company (Aseo de Pereira), Metropolitan Area Centro Occidente (AMCO), Technological University of Pereira (UTP), Ministry of Housing, Cities and Territory, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation Regulatory Commission (CRA), Public Services Superintendence (SSPD)
- *NGO:* Waste pickers organisations: Infinity Recycling, REDCICLADORES, EMAUS, ASOPUNTOVERDE, Entorno Limpio, FUDAMBIENTA, CEMPRE Colombia (Entrepreneurial Agreement for Recycling), Latitud R (Regional Initiative for Inclusive Recycling), Fundación Grupo Familia, Ekored, Pereira's Chamber of Commerce
- *Alumni Association's UTP Environmental Management Program*

## My trash, my treasure

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