

# 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

- 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
- Reinforce the government’s capacity to work closely together with the private sector as a serious partner
- 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)
- **Learning and exchange**
  - Study visit to the Netherlands (2018)
  - Domestic study visit
  - On-demand city-to-city learning



## Context

Sèmè-Podji is a corridor, secondary city, with continuous immigration from Cotonou and Porto-Novo (the political and actual capital city). In ten years the population almost doubled from 115,238 inhabitants in 2002 to 224,207 inhabitants in 2013. This equals an annual growth percentage of 6,24%.

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 (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.

## 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.

## 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 municipale
- *Governmental:* District-level Commission de Gestion des Déchets (COGEDES), Ministère Cadre de Vie, Direction Générale de l'environnement et du climat, Programme national de gestion des changements climatiques
- *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: SGDS-GN (the company responsible for waste management in the region), 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 as well such as PSL Eau.



## My trash, my treasure

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."