



INCREASING ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC SERVICES

THE CASE OF DOUMÉ, CAMEROON: ACCESSING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH COM-SSA III

Doumé is taking measures to tackle climate change by increasing sustainable access to water and electricity. Launched in 2019, the Doumé “Access to Sustainable Public Services” project has managed to obtain support from the European Union funded Covenant of Mayors Sub Saharan Africa (CoM-SSA) III project that will help the local government to develop the necessary pre-feasibility studies.





Figure 1 – Map of Cameroon

Facts and Figures

Located in the Haut Nyong, a region of East-Cameroon, the Municipality of Doumé spans 2,500 km² and is home to more than 10,000 people.

The Municipality of Doumé is influenced by the equatorial Guinean climate with four seasons of unequal duration: a long dry season from November to mid-March; a short rainy season from mid-March to mid-June; a short dry season from mid-June to mid-August; a long rainy season from mid-August to the end of October.

Doumé is increasingly facing the effects of climate change. Droughts, floods, violent winds, and rising temperatures affect inhabitants that struggle to find water and suffer waterborne diseases. Currently, the Municipality of Doumé has no water supply system, but relies on a number of boreholes that are insufficient for the needs of the population and social infrastructures such as hospitals. In addition to that the lack of public lighting makes some parts of the Municipality unsafe.

Doumé’s ambition to curb climate change

In 2011, the “Plan Communal de Développement de Doumé” (PCD) was developed in consultation with citizens from the 24 towns of the Municipality. The plan, which is currently being updated, identified the main issues that the Municipality faced as well as their origin and the strategic steps to curb them in the short, medium and long term.

One of the most urgent matters identified were security and the poor access to drinking water. Regarding security, the



Figure 2 – The city of Doumé

lack of public lights puts women and young people at high risk at night. In terms of water access, the growing effects of climate change have impacted considerably the routine of women in Doumé who have to

walk longer distances to take water. The project “Doumé Access to Sustainable Public Services”, developed by a local NGO: Help Community in 2019 was designed to address this priority of the PCD.

Water and increased safety for all

The project's main goal is to develop basic infrastructure for the Municipality to provide public services like access to water and energy in a climate-resilient and low-carbon manner. The investment needs are currently estimated at about 2.4 to 3.8 million EUR and consist of (i) a potable water supply scheme and (ii) a public lighting installation.

With the water scheme, the municipality plans to construct a water supply and distribution system using energy from solar photovoltaic (PV) to power an electric water pump, also aiming to store sufficient water for the dry season. The shortages are attributed to the effects of climate change due to the drastically reduced rainfall in the past years, which makes it critical to implement sustainable solutions consisting of boreholes in a sufficient quantity and depth to minimize the risk of dewatering and storage.

As these pumps will be powered by a solar photovoltaic generator, the CO₂ equivalent emissions compared to a conventional diesel generator or fossil fuel based grid electricity will be negligible. This goal is also included in the Municipalities Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP), which is a key document developed with the support of the CoM-SSA III project and sets strategies, plans and actions for a sustainable and low emissions development.

With the public lighting installation the municipality aims to install 300 Light Emitting Diodes (LED) public solar lights at high security risk and social priority sites identified by the local population (in front of schools, hospitals, markets, etc.).

Context: Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP)

CoM SSA is the regional angle of the EU funded Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (CoM) initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa, involving city networks, development agencies and funding institutions to face the challenges related to climate change. Signatories commit to prepare and implement Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), addressing both climate mitigation and adaptation before 2030. This is a key document that defines strategies, plans and actions for sustainable and low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission development while including adaptation measures in response to the current and future impacts of climate change in the municipality. Doumé's municipal authorities validated the local SEACAP in June 2020.

Accessing technical assistance

The project applied to the ICLEI led Transformative Actions Program (TAP) in 2019 seeking technical assistance for a pre-feasibility study. Showing high transformative impact potential, the project was accepted to the TAP project pipeline. As part of the TAP partnership, ICLEI promoted the project to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) that was tasked to support local infrastructure projects with their project preparation in Sub Saharan Africa in the frame of the CoM SSA III project.

GIZ screened and assessed the project, which resulted in awarding the technical assistance it was seeking for. More specifically, a pre-feasibility study was carried out that will consider several technical and financial options for the water supply scheme and the extension and energy efficiency improvement of public lighting. Two studies for the components of the project are being realized, as the different themes are likely to attract two different types of donors. These studies were finalized in August 2021 and are currently under review.

HELP Community testimony on TAP

“After the elaboration of the Doumé’s 2019 Action Plan to Access Renewable Energy and Climate (APAREC) and the identification of priority projects, the financial resources mobilization for implementation became an important issue. Thanks to TAP platform’s support, we were oriented towards project preparation, which significantly enhanced our skills in the area. As a result, Doumé obtained technical assistance in project maturation in 2020. TAP is an amazing tool to follow local and regional governments in preparing their projects, guaranteeing their bankability.”



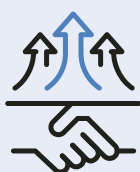
Figure 4 – Hospital building in Doumé

Lessons learned – The way to access technical assistance



Adopt a holistic approach

Projects considering a multi-sectoral approach have multiple socio-economic benefits, and are more attractive to access finance.



Ensure strong stakeholder engagement

Considering the political dynamics and priorities of each local government helps to avoid conflicts or disengagement. Engaging stakeholders already in the planning process makes the project and the partnership stronger and increases investors' confidence.



Align project concepts with local plans

Projects embedded in local plans ensure strong political buy-in, which is key for investors.



Engage local personnel to develop studies

Data collection, technical and financial studies are crucial parts of project preparation. Solid and reliable data helps to understand and enhance the awareness of climate issues in different spheres of local government's administration, and is the basis defining mitigation and adaptation measures. Engaging local officials in these processes strengthens their knowledge and increases internal capacity, making them less dependent on external expert services.

"TAP helped to demystify project preparation".

Jean-Raphael Hei Djob, General Manager, Help Community

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The [Transformative Actions Program \(TAP\)](#) led by [ICLEI](#) is a global initiative to support local and regional governments transform their net zero emission and resilient development infrastructure concepts into mature, robust and bankable projects ready for financing and implementation.

Started in 2015, the [Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa \(CoM SSA\)](#) is a major catalyst for local climate action in the region, with political commitment from over 250 local governments. The purpose of CoM SSA is to support local governments in moving from planning to implementation, with a focus on unlocking climate finance at the local level. The CoM SSA initiative is a European Union (EU) action that supports the external dimension of the European Green Deal, as the global challenges of climate change and environmental degradation require a global response. At the same time CoM SSA moves to strengthen the Africa-EU partnership and supports Agenda 2063 of the African Union Commission.



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