



African Water Facility
Facilité africaine de l'eau

Mobilising Resources for Water in Africa
Mobiliser des ressources pour l'eau en Afrique



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

PROJECT BRIEF

TOGO:

TOILETS FOR ALL IN SOKODÉ THROUGH FAECAL SLUDGE VALORISATION AND MICROCREDIT.

Un-sewered Sanitation Improvements for the Urban Poor



The TAS project is particularly interesting because it sustainably solves several issues by promoting hygiene and health, environmental protection, community participation, and poverty reduction through job creation and income generation.

The Toilets for All in Sokodé (TAS) project

In 2012, Sokodé was the third-largest city in Togo (100,500 people) and an epicentre of cholera outbreaks. The faecal sludge and excreta produced in the city were deposited in the environment through open defecation (34% of households), and some farmers deposited the untreated sludge on their fields.

In 2013, African Water Facility (AWF) invested EUR 1,239,984 in the Toilets for All in Sokodé (TAS) programme. The project's objective is to contribute to the improvement of environmental protection and living conditions of the Sokodé population and those of the surrounding communes through sustainable management of the sewage sludge sector. The strategy adopted by AWF was a multi-sectoral collaboration involving the private sector, local authorities, and government

agencies. It included the establishment of Neighbourhood Sanitation Committees (in French, Comités d'Assainissement de Quartier - CAQ), set up by the neighbourhoods, to play the role of social and technical managers to procure toilets. CAQ became responsible for managing the dislodgement of pit latrines by a social enterprise throughout Sokodé and neighbouring municipalities.

Seven CAQ were formed and integrated into the Federation de CAQ (FéCAQSo). FéCAQSo set up a locally managed microcredit mechanism as a revolving fund to guarantee the sustainability of the programme and the toilets' supply. The construction of the faecal sludge treatment plant valorising the treated residues contributes as well to soil fertilisation and food security.

The project aligned with Ghana's 2025 Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II 2014 - 2017) and followed the African Development Bank's Country Strategy Paper (CSP) guidelines for the development assistance to improve people's socio-economic well-being.

Toilets for All in Sokodé (TAS)

Project Code: P-TG-EBZ-001

Grant Number: 5600155003301

Approval Date: 19th April, 2013

Closing Date: 30th September, 2018

Total Budget: EUR 1,530,700

AWF Funding Amount: EUR 1,686,740

Additional funding from:

Additional EUR 332,974.80 funding from the Municipality of Sokodé, PlanTogo and beneficiaries

Implementing partners:

- Municipality of Sokodé
- PlanTogo

Beneficiaries:

- Inhabitants of Sokodé
- 4 neighbouring communities
- Farmers
- Community enterprises involved in the implementation of the project
- Mayor's office
- Decentralised structures of the State which are members of the steering committee

"The TAS has given us the opportunity to sensitise families about sanitation and hygiene, how to clean the house, WCs and dumps. It has also reduced cholera in Sokodé and helped us, the women, to learn how to keep houses and the area clean."

Adoyi Saba, Iyatou, Trésorière (FéQACSo)



Impacts and Solutions

The TAS project benefited 114,200 inhabitants of Sokodé (2015). It was able to close the loop of the sanitation value chain by providing the municipality with a **treatment plant for the collection of faecal sludge and its valorisation** for agricultural purposes, contributing to soil fertilisation and, therefore, to food security. The delegation of the active service to a private company will ensure the project's sustainability.

By June 2021, the plant had started treating the faecal sludge and turning it into environmentally **safe agricultural fertiliser**. The sale of the fertiliser is expected to generate cash for the continuity of operations.

FÉCAQSO and PlanTogo purchased a sewage truck to collect faecal sludge around the municipality, and a mechanical sludge transport system (tricycle) to serve areas where access by truck is difficult.

Significant achievements include the **creation of CAQs and the construction of family toilets**. An endogenous micro-credit mechanism was established as a revolving fund to ensure continuity of sustainable toilet provision. Such system has brought to the construction of 680 toilets with each household contributing ¼ of the total toilet's cost, so, the repayment by three households makes it possible to finance another household. Unfortunately, this is also a limiting factor in the absence of fresh financial contributions. Therefore, the FéCAQSo will have to charge a certain amount to the beneficiaries as a membership fee to ensure its operation. FéCAQSo was able to provide additional 48 latrines subsidised through the microcredit mechanism, adding to the project's plan of two hundred and fifty household toilets.

The project emphasised **women's participation** in setting up the project management bodies: in the CAQS, 2 or 3 out of 5 members are women; woman heads the federation of committees.

Key Challenges

Communication and the willingness of people.

Limited management capacity of the municipality.

Absence of sanitation standards and lack of enforcement by local authorities.

Low affordability of unprivileged residents of sewage truck services threaten the financial viability of such support.

Only one truck covering many municipalities (30km way and back from the facility), serving even outside the region.

Availability and sustainability of the microcredit mechanism in the absence of fresh financial contributions.

The treatment plant was commissioned on 14 July 2018, so it was not yet operational at the time of the project mission, compromising some planned activities.

Key Lessons

- The **presence of local committees** is fundamental; they work as an interface between the project and the beneficiaries.
- **Communication** is essential; everyone can participate in this project when they are aware of it.
- The project's development must **consider all community members** so that the conditions put in place encourage the emergence of the creative genius of each citizen.
- The use of **microcredit** facilitates the **financial participation** of all households in the procurement and payment of desludging services. The microcredit mechanism can become a policy to extend the opportunities and means available to the disadvantaged population and improve their "capabilities".
- The number of trucks should allow an adequate faecal sludge collection. In time, **delegation to private operators** will enhance the collection and treatment of all sludge.
- Valorisation of treated sludge for agriculture is a **climate change adaptation** strategy.
- **CAQs require assistance and training** for the proper use of management documents.
- Capacity building in conjunction with creating an enabling business environment will strengthen the **institutional sustainability** of a social enterprise to provide on-site sanitation services.



Recommended actions

The specific recommended actions relating to structures, policies and strategic plans are:

Public-private partnerships can be extended to other areas of activity such as public toilet management and procurement.

Continuing to establish **Neighbourhood Sanitation Commitments** in areas not covered by the project is an important action. CAQs should also be helped to take appropriate guarantees to ensure the proper execution of reimbursements, and define areas that allow them to make the funds collected cost-effective, to avoid delays in the construction of new latrines.

Measures should be taken, at municipal level, concerning the **sanitation regulation** in Sokodé (type of toilets, procurement mechanism, desludging operating system, sludge treatment and valorisation, levy, etc.)

The presence of an individual consultant with excellent knowledge of the project is important to consolidate the benefits of the project, in particular the treatment and valorisation of sludge.

The TAS project integrating all the stages of risk-free excreta management is the first of its kind in West Africa. **Results may be capitalised in a range of appropriate forms.**

The gradual coverage of households with toilets can, over time, eradicate the faecal hazard.

"The impact of one truck is great. It makes round in the entire region, and we are able to collect most of the sewage waste. We are, therefore, pleading with our partners to help us procure an additional truck because, with the decentralisation process, the communities have also grown population."

Ouro-Akondo Makani, Secrétaire Général the PAGIREE implementation.



Other related Project Resource

Toilets for all in Sokodé Through Faecal Sludge Valorisation and Microcredit, Project Appraisal Report, March 2013. AWF.
Togo: Toilets for all in Sokodé Through Faecal Sludge Valorisation and Microcredit, Project Completion Report, February 2019. AWF.
<https://projectsportal.afdb.org/dataportal/VProject/show/P-TG-EBZ-001>



Address:

*Immeuble du Centre de commerce International d'Abidjan CCIA,
Avenue Jean-Paul II,
Abidjan 01 BP 1387
+22520265309
africanwaterfacility@afdb.org*

Stay connected:

-  www.facebook.com/africanwaterfacility
-  www.twitter.com/AWFbroadcast
-  <http://www.linkedin.com/>