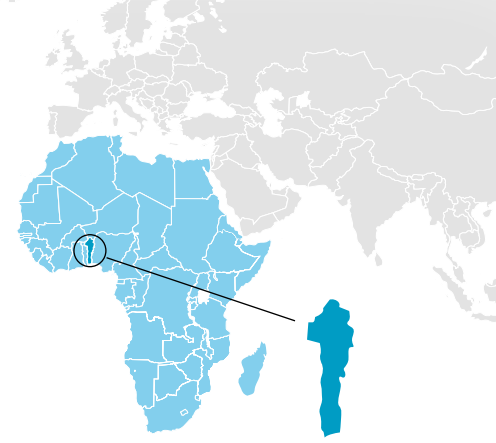


Sanitation Activities in Benin



The Challenge

Benin has a population of about 10 million. The project area covers six provinces all over Benin with a total population of 4.3 million, out of a total of 12 provinces in the country.

There are no centralised sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants in Benin. The Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) of WHO and UNICEF indicates that in 2014 only 14% of the total population used improved sanitation facilities, whereas 56% resorted to open defecation (www.wssinfo.org). The remainder used either shared or so called *unimproved* sanitation facilities. In the urban areas, the access rates are better than in the rural areas but even there only 25% of the urban people have access to improved sanitation, and still 27% resort to open defecation.

The lack of sanitation causes severe health problems, and cases of cholera are reported regularly in Benin. The under-five child mortality rate in Benin was 90 deaths out of 1,000 live births in 2013 – with an encouraging trend down to lower numbers (www.childmortality.org). In 2009, Benin's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was revised and two indicators on sanitation – access to basic sanitation and school toilets – were included. In primary schools the coverage with simple pit latrines rose from 60% (2006) to 83% (2011). However, this number does not reflect the quality and accessibility of the toilets. Faecal sludge collection is carried out in large urban centres, but appropriate treatment of the collected sludge is not taking place.



Project name	Sectorial Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Programme
Project region	Sub-Saharan Africa
Partners	National Directorate for Public Health (DNSP) under the Ministry of Health
Duration	July 2014 to June 2017
Budget for sanitation	3,300,000 Euro
Scale	1,700,000 people reached indirectly in 16 municipalities where GIZ assisted to develop sanitation action plans

With the present trends, it will be difficult to reach the Millennium Development Goals related to sanitation: 67% of the population should have access to improved sanitation by 2015 in Benin.

The government of Benin has developed a number of sanitation policies, most notably the National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy (2013), the National Strategy of Hygiene and Sanitation in rural areas (2014) and the National Strategy of Wastewater Management in urban areas (2007), to address the serious difficulties it encounters in the sanitation sector. Following the decentralisation process in the country, the responsibility for sanitation has been assigned to the local governments. However, responsibilities are still fragmented at the national level for sewage and waste management, storm water drainage as well as hygiene education. Insufficient funding for sanitation infrastructure and hygiene sensibilisation has been allocated by the national and local governments in Benin so far.

The main challenges in the sanitation sector in Benin are a fragmented institutional framework, low capacity of the public administration, slow administrative processes, insufficient funding and a lack of awareness among the population concerning the linkage between water, hygiene, sanitation and health.

Slab production using locally available materials.

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Water sampling
for analysis, Benin.

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Our Approach

We apply a *three level approach*:

Macro level: Promote the political dialogue among the responsible authorities, assist the implementation of the National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy following the decentralisation process and strengthening stakeholder coordination.

Meso level: Develop capacities of decentralised administrations and local governments to improve the sector's performance and to provide adequate planning tools. In order to enable the local governments to improve their role as planners and implementers of local infrastructure and services, they are supported in developing a long-term planning process in their municipalities.

Micro level: Support awareness raising activities concerning hygiene and sanitation at community level.

Programme Activities

Important activities undertaken so far comprise:

- improving sector coordination and strengthening regulation as well as water quality control
- strengthening the performance of the Ministry of Health (La Direction Nationale de la Santé Publique (DNSP)) and its decentralized services
- supporting sanitation measures including planning and implementing separate school latrines for boys and girls
- behavioural changes measures aiming at improved hygienically behaviour by the population.

The programme also supports communities in the area of

- monitoring and evaluation of public services, and request for total transparency towards the population
- technical assistance for communities
- strategic sector planning and annual budget planning based on sector objectives including the introduction of sector planning for hygiene and sanitation by the communities
- introduction of an action plan for behavioural changes at community level.

Outcomes

- Sector coordination is ensured at national and departmental level.
- Water quality is controlled for 80% of the piped water systems in rural areas.
- 160 primary schools of 8 communities have latrines/toilets with separate stances for boys and girls.
- The sector action plans for hygiene and sanitation of 8 communities take the specific needs of women, men, handicapped and poor people into account.
- The communities apply the sectorial planning for hygiene and sanitation.

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More information

<http://www.giz.de/expertise/html/11139.html>

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