

»» Project Information

Decentralisation/Governance – Togo

Promoting good governance

Togo's development is being seriously hampered by the lack of public services and economic infrastructure.

After the local elections in June 2019, the Togolese government will have to provide the municipalities with the necessary funds, human resources and administrative skills to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

In a joint programme with GIZ, KfW Development Bank is financing the expansion and rehabilitation of marketplaces and smaller-scale municipal projects in selected medium-sized towns in order to generate additional income for the municipalities.

Current situation

Togo is one of the poorest countries in the world. 40% of the population lives on less than USD 1.25 per day. Togo is politically and economically centralised around the capital Lomé. Decentralisation of Togo's political and administrative structures, which is an official goal, is still in its infancy. The financial situation of the Togolese cities and municipalities is very tight. Marketplaces, bus stations, and sewage disposal as well as roads are often in very poor condition in many places and urgently need investment to expand and rehabilitate them.

Although the Togolese government has acknowledged the need for decentralisation measures, municipalities cannot provide public services and economic infrastructure to the required extent. This shortcoming impedes economic development and the use of local services.

There is a lot of untapped potential, especially in local and supra-regional trade and transport. This is particu-

larly problematic as these sectors are the main sources of income for municipalities.

The participation of citizens at local level, which is necessary for decentralisation, has not yet taken place either. Citizens are discouraged by a lack of opportunities for participation and often unfulfilled promises by the government. Nevertheless, there is still considerable interest in the process of decentralisation that is already underway.

Project approach

KfW Development Bank is therefore financing the expansion and rehabilitation of the marketplaces in the

Project name	Programme to support decentralisation
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
Country/Region	Togo/Sokodé, Tsévié and Kpalimé Aného, Atakpamé, Dapaong, Kara, Sotouboua
Project partner	Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale, de la Décentralisation et des Collectivités Locales (MATDCL)





Market in Tsevié, source: KfW Group, photographer: Equipe PAD/GFA

three selected medium-sized towns of Sokodé, Tsévié and Kpalimé (start: end of 2018). The second phase of the project comprises investments in five other medium-sized towns as well as several “*petits projets*”, in which the towns themselves implement smaller-scale projects such as event rooms or boutiques.

These projects aim to promote decentralisation in Togo. The goal here is, among other things, to generate additional income for the municipalities by expanding the markets. The markets are to be operated and maintained by the municipalities themselves. Appropriate training measures are also part of the project.

In addition, strengthening the weak personnel capacities of local administrations is one of the programme's measures to drive the decentralisation process. Gender equality is also a central aspect of the project. The target is for at least 50% of the new renters of the market stands to be women.

In addition, KfW supported the direct participation of the population in local proposals with the aid of an SMS-based citizen monitoring system. It enabled citizens to provide direct feedback on the activities, service quality and municipal planning. Citizen monitoring was also designed to enable a participatory assessment of needs. However, citizen monitoring was interrupted due to domestic political unrest in mid-2017. Following the successful local elections on 30 June 2019, a new concept will be developed for citizen monitoring and efforts resumed.

Impact

In the three selected medium-sized towns of the project's first phase, construction and rehabilitation of the marketplaces are already underway. The municipal elections, which had been postponed for decades, finally took place and are a step towards democratisation at municipal level. By expanding and rehabilitating the markets and subsequently increasing the income of the municipalities, KfW's programme contributes to strengthening the basic supply of medium-sized towns by improving the economic infrastructure and public services. The medium-sized cities have the opportunity to become growth poles of the region. In addition, market participants benefit from the increased security situation in the marketplaces and improved hygienic conditions.

The possibilities for the participation of various stakeholder groups in the municipalities, which were created in the project via SMS-based citizen monitoring, have proven worthwhile.



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