

City Douala	
Country	Cameroon
Population	2,800,000
Title of policy or practice	Une gouvernance de l'alimentation urbaine à Douala (Urban Food Governance In Douala)
Subtitle (optional)	
URL video	
Category	Governance
SDGs	<p>SDG: 1,4.</p> <p>The project aims to two different Governance Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to eradicating hunger and malnutrition and to promoting food safety. • Encourage the implementation of open and efficient agricultural and food systems.
Brief description	<p>Douala is a port town, located in the Wouri estuary, 30 km away from the Atlantic Ocean, at the bottom of the Gulf of Guinea, adjacent to Nigeria, Chad, Gabon, CAR, Congo and Equatorial Guinea. It is located in the department of Wouri, in the Littoral region of Cameroon. Located in the heart of Central Africa, it is a source of supply of farming and agricultural products in the whole region. As such, it attracts each year more than 100,000 newcomers but it is also committed to meet its neighbouring cities' demand, always in the perspective of ensuring food safety. Douala itself is partly supplied with food products coming from production areas located in West, South-West regions. In this context, food production, supply and distribution are major challenges for the city. By focusing on an enabling environment for effective action, the local government wants to ensure a better access to a healthy diet for the populations and to make sure that stakeholders' contributions effectively lead to food safety for all.</p> <p>The underlying goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement an urban and peri-urban agriculture; • encourage the creation of protected community spaces for the urban, peri-urban agriculture; • build infrastructures for food preservation and commercial equipment in accordance with the standards; • involve research in the production of quality substrates for the production of healthy foods; • facilitate the circulation of food products; • encourage populations to engage in agricultural production and healthy eating; • educate young people to jobs related to the food environment (school programs, seminars); • support the economy and the jobs in the agro-pastoral sector; • foster social cohesion and inclusion; • training of municipal officers and other actors on food system planning. <p>It involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction by Douala Urban Community (DUC) of school eco-canteens through the MDG Project (Education Action Plan about Millennium Development Goals through Schools twinning between North and South). • The development of a project aiming to define Douala Food Safety Strategy. • Formalization and strengthening of a common platform between DUC and civil society actors to promote urban and peri-urban agriculture.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for innovations from SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) in agro-pastoral sector. • The participation of Douala in international meetings relating to the issue of food security. • The city's commitment to build infrastructures and commercial equipment for fresh food produce.
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	12/2017 – 06/2017 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>Project 1: Creation of eco-school canteens in 4 schools in Douala, twinning of north and south schools, training teachers to SDGs, implementation of Agendas 21.</p> <p>Partners: The Urban Community of Douala; the District Municipality of Maroua 1st (Cameroon); University of Koudougou (Burkina Faso); the French Association A.P.R.E.I.S (France); the province of Pesaro in Italy; The Haskovo Youth Centre.</p> <p>Project 2: Training on micro-gardens to improve living conditions (adding nutritional value, generating more income): FAO support, involvement of all Douala districts, SME, associations.</p>
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Douala Declaration (August 2005); • Step 2: Launch of MDG project; • Step 3: Participation in the World Exposition Milan (Expo Milano), signing of MUFPP; • Step 4: Participation in Dakar's Forum on alternative food systems; • Step 5: Creation of an internal management and coordination unit for the awareness-raising project on the Milan Pact and peri-urban agriculture; • Step 6: Participation in the training on micro-gardens; • Step 7: Implementation of a participatory and inclusive approach to food policy, creation of a team responsible of the city's food system, definition of a food safety strategy.
Innovation	<p>Cameroon is undergoing socioeconomic changes and faces several challenges: instability due to the increasing number of refugees which increases food demand, rural exodus and climatic changes. Thus, a territorial action aims at strengthening the role of agriculture, particularly in the rural areas. To improve the production and selling conditions of food in schools, Douala has innovated in the implementation of sustainable eco-canteens in 4 schools, and this is resulting from Agenda 21 process (local development of schools). This initiative is related to the Millennium Goals, in particular to reduce poverty and improve education, health and the respect of the environment. Douala is also the first of the CEMAC area to implement a municipal project to fight against poverty through specific trainings regarding agriculture, such as micro-gardens in cooperation with Dakar, to give more autonomy to vulnerable populations. The project on the definition of a food strategy is innovative as well, by creating an alliance with other municipalities (in particular Milan, Dakar and Nairobi), and by initiating a scientific research with Douala University. The participation of all the stakeholders contributes to making this project innovative (ministries, associations, delegations, national institutes, universities, FAO, consumers, producers, civil society). Thanks to an inclusive approach, the eight themes of the MDGs as well as the themes of the SDGs are tackled in all of these projects.</p>
Impact	<p>The following results were achieved:</p> <p>(1) Development and consolidation of a network of schools in different countries involving approximately 9,424 young people;</p> <p>(2) Field research with 1,800 teachers, 1,700 parents, 13,550 students on the concept of development, the extent of their knowledge, particularly with regard to the SDGs, their experience and interest in North-South cooperation;</p>

(3) Implementation of School Agenda 21 as a tool for training activities, multidisciplinary awareness-raising among school communities and participatory planning of actions in favour of sustainable development and decentralized North-South cooperation;

(4) Implementation of 37 micro-projects as an experiment in North-South school solidarity for sustainable development.

Finally, the partner organisations held some meetings in schools, some public conferences and public awareness initiatives. It also produced video material and publications to promote the experience.

With regard to the development of a rapid diagnosis on food safety, a total of 26 food products were included in this rapid diagnosis. They selected a sample of products consumed in Douala.

In total, a sample of 600 individuals or actors was selected for the SYSTALDO Rapid Diagnostic investigations, and the intervention areas went beyond Douala. This decision was justified by the need to understand the origin of the products sold and consumed in Douala, and thus to integrate the production areas in such a way as to also provide a response to producers outside Douala.

Inclusion

Territorial inclusion:

Regional Delegation of Secondary Education provided:

- Teaching of food suppliers;
- Teacher training (Glosil);
- Implementation of school Agendas 21;
- Capacity building for eco-bakers;
- Monitoring the implementation of school eco-canteens;
- Management of Douala's school eco-canteens.

DRSanté [Regional Health Delegation] provided experts in the field of diet and food.

DR MINPMEESA [Regional Delegation of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Crafts] provided experts in the field of social and solidarity economy and waste treatment.

Internal measures taken by the Douala Urban Community

Act No. 2004/018 of 22 July 2004 granting:

- The promotion of agricultural, artisanal, pastoral and fish production activities;
- Construction, equipment, management and maintenance of markets, bus stations and slaughterhouses;
- FEICOM [Special Fund for Equipment and Inter-Municipal Intervention];
- PNDP National Participatory Development Programme];

Territory-specific provisions, including:

- the opening of specific accounts;
- the constitution of dedicated teams;
- the development of administrative and financial facilitation procedures;
- the vote of communal deliberations in favour of the action;
- communication and visibility provisions that promote wide information and awareness.

Social inclusion:

Local representatives of civil society organisation, public authorities, consumers, distributors, transport companies, storage companies, catering companies, producers, academic institutions, international organisations have met regularly to discuss the issue of food security.

Thematic inclusion:

The SDG Project has taken into account education, sustainable development, climate change and health. The one on food security addressed the themes related to poverty, mobility, food and finance.

Adversity coefficient

Difficulties encountered during the implementation of the action:

- 1st: turnover of teachers. Those who had been involved from the beginning had trouble understanding the reasons for the extra time needed to integrate the teachers joining the project. At that time, partner organisations experienced the effect of pressure from national schools. At the same time, another obstacle related to national political elections accentuated internal difficulties. It should be noted, however, that these difficulties are strictly related to the necessary intercultural misunderstandings.
- 2nd: letter exchange, mainly online. Indeed, the difficulties faced by African teachers in having access to computers and an Internet connection on a regular basis has created further tensions as European teachers have been waiting for answers as soon as possible, leading to profound misunderstandings fuelled by long delays in the payment grants to schools in order to facilitate access to IT tools and international communications.
- 3rd: social crisis in Burkina Faso, which had the effect of a less fluid implementation of activities.
- 4th: change of status of the Lead Partner of the project. Indeed, the issues of its dissolution, the modalities of its dissolution and the continuity of the action within the framework of another institution of Cà Foscari University and with another work team also had repercussions on the more general modalities of project management with some partner organizations.
- 5th: cosmopolitan nature of Douala, which is home to populations from various social strata with great diversity in terms of the origin of its populations. Hence the complexity of the measures to be taken to ensure that so many food cultures coexist. Moreover, all the difficulties encountered were overcome thanks to team spirit and constant work in terms of skills and conflict management through intercultural approaches.
- 6th: mobilization of internal participants, who, because of the changes in the administration, had to first immerse themselves in the project procedures, then abandon the exclusive procedures of the public administration to integrate the international financial environment.
- 7th: agreement of the members of the Food Security Actors' Platform on the adaptation of the research method suggested by the FAO (RUFSA). The discussions on the applicability of this method to the local environment were the subject of various interventions by the members of the platform, all reassured at the end of an explanatory seminar.