



Participation of women in municipal councils in Benin

1. Context
2. Experience and expertise of SDC Benin
3. Results and testimonies



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Participation of women in municipal councils in Benin

- Low participation of women in decision-making bodies in general: **Parliament 6/83 (7%); Government 3/21 (17%); Communities 65/1435 (4,52%)**
- Election of women to the municipal councils: result from work of Civil society organizations (CSO) with support of PTFs, among them SDC
- Experience of decentralisation started in 2003; Three municipal elections organized
- Conditions of participation in elections unfavourable for women (Obligation by electoral law of 2013 to be registered on a list of a political party)
- In general, very few women are active in a political party
- Need to work towards strengthening the political leadership of women



Participation of women in municipal councils in Benin: The experience and the expertise of SDC Benin

Partnership with Civil society organizations (CSO): A powerful means of promoting political leadership of women

CSO partners of SDC

- Platform of NGOs for the Participation of Women in decision-making bodies
- Network of women's NGOs
- Network and Union of women elected to municipal councils

Key actions

- Awareness-raising of community/population for presence and participation of women in consultations, reunions and community activities
- Support of gender consultation frameworks at departmental and community level
- Support of setting up gender-sensitive planning tools (municipal development plans, women in offices of women's associations and women's groups)
- Trainings and coaching of women who are potential candidates for local elections
- Awareness-raising of spouses and men
- Advocacy on political parties for a better positioning of women on electoral lists is carried out
- Production of capitalization documents/testimonies as advocacy tool



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Appui matériel au groupement féminin IMO TOTO de Savè pour la fabrication de l'huile d'arachide 2012

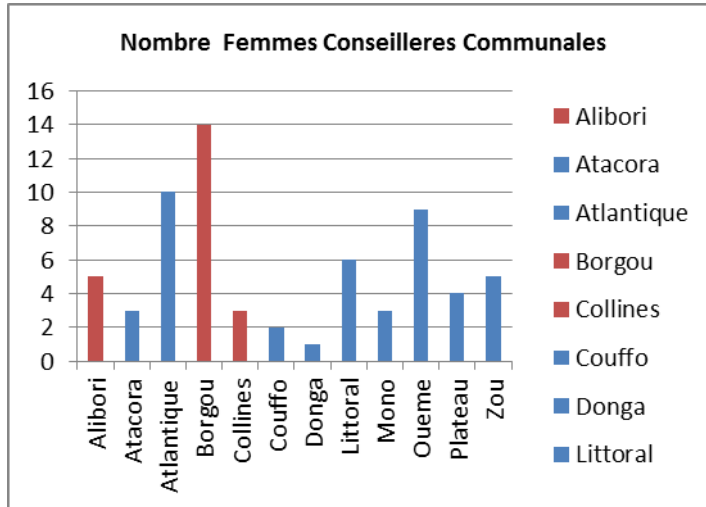


Prix aux meilleures élèves filles de la classe de 3ième des collèges de Kandi (2013)

- **In the concentration zone of SDC interventions**
- Support of the *Union des Femmes élues conseillère de Alibori Borgou et Collines (UFEC – ABC)* established in 2009
- Institutional strengthening of UFEC – ABC
- Support of setting up micro projects initiated by the elected women to support the leadership of girls and women (2009-2015) **31 micros projects for an overall cost of 235 000 CHF**: *Capacity-building and equipment of women's groups, enrolment of girls, child protection, fight against GBV, reproductive health*
- Training/capacity-building of the members on political leadership and the laws on decentralization



Participation of women in municipal councils in Benin: The experience and the expertise of SDC Benin: Results and some testimonies



Situation par départements: 3è mandature

« We must help women to trust in themselves »

« Vagaries are not gender-based, everything is a matter of will and commitment »

«The effectiveness of political communication of women in elections also depends on the campaign resources available»

« If a woman is popular, she can be registered on lists of candidates of political parties »

UFEC_ABC



8% des femmes élues conseillères communales en 2015 (contre 4% au niveau national)

UFEC_ABC



1 femme Maire sur 2 au total
3 /5 première Adjointe
6 /9 Chef Arrondissement

The support for a better representation of women in decision-making bodies passes through:

- ❖ **Capacity-building of women**
- ❖ **Awareness-raising for men and women / Advocacy on political party**
- ❖ **Economic empowerment of women**