



THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: A STRATEGIC, PARTICIPATORY AND INTEGRATED PLANNING TOOL FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN TUNISIA

The Madinatouna II project supports four municipalities to prepare and operationalise their Local Development Plan (LDP) 2023-2025, the key planning instrument for Tunisian municipalities. The Plan has been developed through a broad participatory process, taking into account local economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities through a spatial lens.

Cities Alliance works in partnership with Tunisia's National Decentralisation Agency¹ that is within the Ministry of Interior and which is responsible for steering the countries' decentralisation process.




¹ L'Instance de Prospection et d'Appui au Processus de la Décentralisation (IPAPD).


Citizens now feel that they are partners and that their opinions matter to us. Personally, I learned a lot about development and the power of making citizens participate in the process. Before, youth were often absent in planning. Now they have a voice. Our colleagues from neighboring municipalities are jealous, they want to embark on the same process for elaborating their Local Development Plan.


— **Fatma**, Member of the Youth Council of the city of Medenine (the first municipal Youth Council of the country)

OBJECTIVE // Overall Objective: Partner municipalities adopt a strategic development planning and management tool that facilitates inclusive and sustainable development.

Specifically, the Local Development Plan:

 serves as a participatory planning tool that involves relevant local actors, including citizens, in the development process.

 facilitates municipal decision-making and investment by providing an action plan that includes a set of concrete development projects prioritised and prepared in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

 fosters cross-sectoral and multi-level collaborations among development actors and leverages resulting development synergies

 enables cities to leverage public and private financing for investment in local infrastructure and services.

APPROACH // The process consists of 4 steps:



1. LOCAL LEADERSHIP:

A Steering Committee drives this process and is composed of municipal council members, the administration, regional state offices, and representatives of civil society.



2. AN EVIDENCE-BASED DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS:

A deep-dive analysis of existing studies and data from national, regional and sectoral development actors is prepared. This work is complemented by an official population and employment household survey that collects precise data for the municipal territory. A qualitative diagnostic is prepared through a series of participatory citizen workshops in each zone of the municipality as well as thematic workshops on priority topics such as the challenges and opportunities within the territory.



3. A STRATEGIC VISION:

Formulated through a participatory process, the development vision articulates strategic orientations and objectives for how the city wants to look and what it wants to achieve by 2035.



4. AN OPERATIONAL ACTION PLAN:

An operational action plan: Strategic objectives are translated into activities and projects of different complexities, scopes and in different locations across the municipal territory. These will be implemented within 3 years and included within the upcoming Municipal Investment Plan.



THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF MEDENINE

Between June and July of 2022 Cities Alliance and the city of Medenine hosted **28 workshops that drew 1,200 participants**. Among these were **250 youth and 150 women** as well as local and regional authorities, civil society, representatives of the private sector and citizens from throughout the municipal territory. **1040 households were surveyed**. This process yielded proposals for **495 proximity projects and 64 strategic investment projects** across the territory which are then prioritised in collaboration between local authorities and the deconcentrated state offices and included in an operational action plan and eventually the Municipal Investment Plan.



As technical staff of the municipality, I learnt new techniques and methods for steering dialogues, mediating and managing conflicts and got a better picture and understanding of citizens' needs and perspectives. People in the remote areas of the municipality were surprised and excited: it was the first time public representatives came and listened to them. I feel through the diagnostic workshops we have forged new relationships with our citizens, based on better understanding and trust.

— FARHAT KSIKSI, Technical Director of the City of Medenine and LDP focal point

KEY RESULTS

4 CITIES will have completed and operationalised their Local Development Plan, including a communication plan, an operational action plan and a Municipal Investment Plan.



≈ **6,000 PEOPLE**

actively contributed to the process through over a **100 workshops** across the territory of the four municipalities and through surveys that gathered socio-economic data from



3,100 HOUSEHOLDS across the municipal territories of **Beja, Jendouba and Medenine**, as well as a number of key informant interviews. Specific workshops for youth, women and handicapped persons were held to ensure their perspectives are included.



Specific workshops for youth, women and handicapped persons



≈ **400 POLITICAL LEADERS**

and technical staff from national and local urban stakeholders and civil society gained insights and skills in the following areas: inclusive, participatory local development planning and city management; local financial management; investment planning and project packaging; investment project financing, transparent and efficient procurement processes; and integrated territorial planning.

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