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THE MADINATOUNA II PROJECT FOR MORE INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT TUNISIAN CITIES

CONTEXT

STRENGTHENING LOCAL PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND DRIVING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

The 2018 Local Government Code ("*Code des Collectivités Locales*" - CCL) provides the legislative framework articulating the functional and financial responsibilities and capacities associated with urban and territorial development between the national government, the regions and municipalities.

According to Article 105 of Code, a Local Development Plan is "the reference framework for the action of local authorities and the bodies that depend on them for overall development". The Local Government Code identifies participatory democracy as the foundation of all local development planning processes. If done well, participatory mechanisms can substantially contribute to improving the frictions between local authorities and citizens and can build mutual understanding and cooperation. Meaningful collaborative mechanisms between stakeholder groups and across governance levels and sectors are a prerequisite for effective infrastructure and service investments that respond to citizens' needs and expectations.

Although the Local Government Code (CCL) has foreseen fiscal decentralisation, to date the local finance system in Tunisia remains centralised. By and large, local governments still lack financial autonomy, which exacerbates funding gaps for local infrastructure and service improvements. Opportunities for own-source revenue mobilisation and external financing exist and are worthwhile in pursuing.

Reducing regional disparities and social inequalities requires strengthening the technical and financial capacities of Tunisian municipalities so they can effectively plan, manage and provide high quality municipal infrastructure and services to their citizens.

— Nazek Ben Jannet, Cities Alliance representative in Tunisia

COMPONENTS, OBJECTIVES, AND RESULTS

The objective of the Madinatouna II project has been to equip partner cities with planning and management tools, capacities and resources to accelerate inclusive, climate-resilient development for the benefit of all city residents and the environment.



© The cultural heritage of Berber architecture is one of the landmarks of Medenine.

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PLAN FOR INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Results:



Technical and financial cooperation **with 4 municipalities to design and operationalise**

Local Development Plans tailored to their **needs and resources**, & translated into Investment Plans



The **Local Development Plans** are in line with other **territorial planning tools**, prepared with the **participation of relevant territorial actors** & their action plan has been spatialised



6,000 people have actively participated in the **design processes** through more than

100 workshops across the territory of the **4 municipalities**.



Piloted a gender-sensitive, cross-sectoral collaborative approach for more **integrated territorial planning** across governance levels



Deep-dive local finance analyses conducted to improve the financial planning and management capacities of technical staff.

This will facilitate mobilising both own-revenue and external resources



and a survey among **≈ 3,100 households** and key informant interviews



The Madinatouna II project is different: it's not the experts doing the work, it's the work of everyone: the municipal council and the municipal administration, the delegations, the governorate, the deconcentrated state services, civil society and the citizens, academia, and the local private sector. For the participatory workshops we go to the areas where the people live. We listen to them and try to understand their aspirations, their convictions, their expectations, and what they propose for their region. Then we document, analyse and spatialise the information to guide the preparation of the development vision and action plan and discuss its implementation with all relevant actors who will be involved in its realisation.

— Bechir Chibani, Cities Alliance local development expert and former Director of the Tunisian Government's Development Office of the South (ODS)



© A participant draws on the map during a participatory workshop in Beja.

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PREPARE AND DELIVER HIGH QUALITY URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES THAT RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CITY RESIDENTS

Results:



TANGIBLE LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENTS:
4 infrastructure & service projects implemented **from design to delivery**, benefitting **409,952 citizens**



efficient **street lighting**,



greater access to **inclusive public spaces** in their neighborhoods



and the creation of a **cinema and cultural centre**



REPLICATION AND SCALE-UP OF PROJECTS:
Through this process municipal teams became equipped **with the technical skills** to **design, set-up, deliver and monitor** similar projects



We are proud. Citizens sent us messages thanking us, and encouraging us to continue and extend further the neighborhood parks so that all citizens of Tataouine, no matter where they live, can easily access these important spaces of leisure and for coming together. I recommend you visit the rehabilitated parks in the evening. They are full with people, every evening. There's no better affirmation of our work than this.

— Touil Mounir, Secretary General and Technical Director of the Municipality of Tataouine



© Khadija and her friends in a rehabilitated neighbourhood park in Tataouine.

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LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILD PARTNERSHIPS TO ACCESS FINANCING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS



CITY-WIDE ENERGY TRANSITION:
3 deep-dive energy audits conducted
(20,000 light points analysed) which enable



municipalities to make
30-50 % savings on their electricity bill
amounting to a total saving of
US\$ 135-270,000 per city



PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY:
Medenine commercial hub project
integrated into the online multilateral
development financing platform SOURCE
managed by the Sustainable Infrastructure
Foundation (SIF)



PROJECT PREPARATION:
Technical and financial project set-up and
feasibility study for an inclusive commercial hub in Medenine project to boost local
economic development and



create job opportunities
(worth 5 million USD)



FINANCING MOBILISED:
to date over **1.2 million USD**
leveraged in co- and follow-up funding
from **cities and partners for infrastructure investment**

Results:



Having a Plan in place that was developed through a participatory approach makes it easier to raise interest in our projects from technical and financial partners.

— Mongi Bouabid, Technical Director,
Municipality of Tataouine



The LDP and our 2035 vision guide the municipal council and me as a mayor in all investment decisions. The Plan also helps us set up and collaborate with other stakeholders on major economic development projects that will make our municipality more attractive to investors.

— Moncef Ben Yamna, Mayor of Medenine

COLLABORATE WITH MUNICIPALITIES & NATIONAL GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS & FOSTER INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

Results:



Improved collaboration & stronger partnerships between national and local government authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector for greater coherence and impact.



SUPPORTED DIALOGUE AND PEER LEARNING: HELD MORE THAN 35: workshops, conferences and transdisciplinary forums which are



improving inclusive and sustainable **local development planning** at national level and within cities.



KNOWLEDGE CREATION: MORE THAN 15: urban development diagnostics, plans, assessments and surveys have delivered targeted, contextual guidance tailored for high-impact interventions



SUPPORTED LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACTORS TO DRIVE DECENTRALISATION PROCESSES:

Over 400 political leaders as well as technical staff

from national and local urban stakeholders, including civil society, gained knowledge and skills to maximise the impact of their work in one or more of 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,
- integrated territorial planning,
- energy transition,
- design of inclusive public spaces.



I really appreciate the collaboration with Cities Alliance. We work closely together and complement our efforts. Our team has learnt a lot through the project. We now have better knowledge of participatory development and investment planning and project preparation. For example, to advance our energy transition. We hope to continue this collaboration.

— Soud Boubaker, Mayor of Tataouine



© Nearby residents enjoy the calm of the park in the early evening.

The Madinatouna II project is implemented by Cities Alliance with financial support from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

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