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REDUCING THE RISKS OF FLOODS IN BAS-MONO: A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE EDOH- WOKUIKOPE VILLAGE



In the village of Edoh-Wowuikokpe, recurrent floods since 2010 have disturbed people's lives and engendered massive displacement and migration of communities to other localities.

Thanks to the water harvesting structures constructed by the local population in 2016, several community activities are organized in the village and provide revenues for its residents.

The displaced populations are also gradually returning to their lands and resuming their economic activities taking advantage of the collected water.



« We have now forgotten about floods and resumed our agricultural activities. Before, women used to go to other regions to work in agricultural fields, but now, they have their own lands where they can conduct their own crops. We will start with fish farming, a long-desired activity in our village »

Mr Yawovi Zomatsi



EdohWowuikopé is a small village in the Afagan canton. Its population is estimated at 450 inhabitants and agriculture is the first activity practiced in the village. Located in the depression of the Mono river basin, the Edoh-Wowuikokpe village is subject to recurrent flooding, leading most often to the loss of cultivable lands and the destruction of crops and houses. This situation results in sharp decrease of agricultural productivity and massive migration of affected population to other regions and villages.

Alternative solutions devised by the population

Since April 2016, things have started to change. The local population decided to act and find solutions to this problem by constructing water catchment infrastructures which allowed them collect and drain waters and clean up their environment. The strong mobilization of communities attests for their determination and commitment to devise efficient and definitive solutions: “they were all mobilized and supported this initiative. It is a real local workforce which contributed to the work. Our environment is clean now and the large quantities of water are drained into the basin and will serve for irrigating crops in dry seasons.” (Mr. Yao Alex Hoegnikou, Executive Director of OVAD-AP, non-governmental organization which supervised the work of the local populations.)

Hope is back to the Edoh-Wowuikope village

Hope is back to the Edoh-Wowuikokpe village and its communities are excited to go back to their fields and resume their income-generating activities, agriculture in particular. This was possible thanks to the financial support, 32 billion CFA franc (i.e. 60 000 USD), provided by the SAWAP's Integrated Disaster and Land Management Project (PGICT).

Mr. YawoviZomatsi, leader of the Edoh-Wowuikokpe village, said:

« From now on, we will forget about floods and resume our agricultural activities. Before, women used to go to other regions to work in agricultural fields, but now, they have their own lands where they can conduct their own crops. We will start by fish farming, a long-desired activity in our village ».

A rewarding commitment

“All those who contributed to these activities received in return 20 000 CFA franc every two weeks. This amount helped to support the needs of our households and to save money for new activities, vegetable cropping for instance.” Mrs Rebecca Amezian, resident of the Edoh-Wowuikope village.

Success factors

The PGICT project (supported by the World Bank and other financial partners, such as GFDRR, GEF, LDFC, TerrAfrica) has developed an inclusive and participatory approach which made of the local communities the main development actors of their localities. In the Edoh-Wowuikokpe village, 246 persons (66,26 % women) have actively participated in the water harvesting structures construction.



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