

## Projects in West Africa

- ✓ Ben 51 "Support to the strengthening and development of an association of rabbit breeders"
- ✓ Ben 52 "Coordination of actions in West Africa"
- ✓ Ben 53 "Improving access to health care for the population of rural Mono"
- ✓ Ben 54 "Supporting the development of economic activities of populations in rural Mono »
- ✓ Ben 59 "Integrated fight for food security in West Atacora / LISA "
- ✓ Tog 56 "Support to community health in the prefecture Kpendjal"
- ✓ Tog 57 "Capacity building of mutual savings and loan societies in the Savannah region"
- ✓ Tog 58 "Establishment of self-managing systems for health care financing (mutual insurance societies) in north Togo, Savannah region"
- ✓ Tog 59 "Establishment of self-managing systems for health care financing (mutual insurance society) in the Central Region and Plateaux"



### 1. Health (BEN 53, TOG 56, 58, 59)

In areas we cover, it is common that more than half of the households is poor or vulnerable to poverty. In case of illness, people experience great difficulty in collecting money to cover medical costs and adopt mechanisms which often aggravate their poverty level (recourse to moneylenders, sales of products or stock meant for their own consumption). In these areas which are isolated, prone to flooding and have a low number of development actors, it is often dangerous for people to go to health centers in case of illness. Finally, these problems are exacerbated by issues of hygiene, sanitation and drinking water. With our partners we aim to improve the health conditions of the population through sustainable access to quality health care, clean water and appropriate hygienic and sanitation systems. Particular attention is paid to the health of women of childbearing age and children from 0 to 5 years. A services package was offered to people represented by community health workers whose capabilities are enhanced to meet the needs of the users (population information and training of staff).

Via the participation of communities building their own mutual insurance societies a quick access to quality health care is provided at any time of year without the population having to recourse to funding sources making them even more vulnerable to poverty.

This axis is complementary to the axis " economic and food security" which helps improve the capacity of people to pay their insurance premium.

### ***Key results for 2007***

- ✓ The participatory and democratic management by the populations of mutual insurance societies, nearby care infrastructures, hygiene and sanitation is improved through training, meetings, experience exchanges and follow-up meetings between the forces actively involved in the management of these infrastructures.
- ✓ These infrastructures are developed (water points are built to provide drinking water in sufficient quantity to the population, new mutual insurance societies are created).
- ✓ Access to health care by the poorest households and quality of care are developed through a network of mutual insurance societies and a network of community health workers who receive training
- ✓ The mutual insurance societies are developed and offer collective support and sustainable health care
- ✓ All this together with our partners and with the health authorities

## **2. Economic and food security (BEN 51, 54, 59, TOG 57)**

In some areas of Togo or Benin, it is not uncommon for more than one in two households to be poor or highly vulnerable to poverty. It is with these people that we work. In areas which are often isolated, prone to floods and where few of development actors are present, we participate in the improvement of living conditions of people, and this on the basis of a partnership approach with local development actors if they are present. These can be partners from civil society, the public sector or local authorities. We specifically ensure the promotion, training and development of income-generating activities and participate in identifying opportunities to improve local production. Moreover we support the organisation of producers in associations (guaranteeing regular deliveries, price stability and the establishment of a distribution network) which increase capacity for action, negotiation and advocacy towards the authorities. The improved access of the households to funding sources is important because it allows them to improve their economic conditions and hence their own food security but also access to health care. In this way, economic and food security projects in the area are complementary with projects to support access to health care. Access to funding sources is made possible through the establishment of mutual savings and loan societies. Supported by Louvain Développement, these are being professionalised in accordance with regulations. Finally the concept of gender is a transversal axis in our projects to improve the integration of women in income-generating activities.

### ***Key results for 2007***

- ✓ The food security of the population is improved through the supply of agricultural inputs, access to vaccination of livestock and production technologies, through improved financial services (micro-credit, mutual savings and loan societies) and non-financial (project support, information and training) proposed by managers and through skilled staff and increased professionalism
- ✓ The negotiation skills and power of the people are improved through the establishment and strengthening of farming organisations and partners. In collaboration with local authorities this also enables the consolidation of production circuits.
- ✓ The population's access to quality health care is improved by creating and supporting the development of mutual insurance societies, through the construction and equipping of a maternity ward, through training, information and raising awareness (AIDS, ...)

### **3. Coordination project West Africa – Benin – Togo (BEN 52)**

This project supports and coordinates the actions of Louvain Développement's partners in their projects in West Africa through the involvement of our coordination which creates contacts, promotes information exchange, coordination and harmonisation of programmes. This complementarity between our partners strengthens the actions carried out in an integrated vision of development. The coordination and its experts are a technical support tool to partners for monitoring and evaluation of projects as well as for developing of new projects and programmes.

#### ***Key results for 2007***

- ✓ The operational capabilities of the coordination are strengthened which enables an improved dialogue between different actors and the development of synergies to enhance and improve local skills.
- ✓ These partners develop coherent and structured actions.

#### ***Total budget West Africa (sum of the total budgets per project in the area)***

1.462.811, 00 €

#### ***Direct beneficiaries (estimation) :***

Près de 185.000 inwoners

#### ***Highlights from the intervention of Louvain Développement in the area :***

- ◆ Development and improvement of democratic participatory structures which improve health, hygiene and access to water as well as food security and negotiating capacities of the population
- ◆ Improving the living conditions of people through access to quality health care

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Louvain Coopération au Développement asbl Av. du Grand Cortil 15A, 1348 LLN

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