Household Accessibility to Potable Water and their Socio-Economic Impacts in Douala: Case of Mabanda in the Douala IV Municipality.

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I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

About 58% of inhabitants of Sub-Saharan Africa, including Cameroon, have no access to potable water. The Water sector in Cameroon has undergone restructuring in the wake of public sector reforms and privatization (Fonjong et al 2017).

The Mabanda neighbourhood in Douala faces a variety of challenges, including that of access to safe and sufficient drinking water under acceptable, assessable, socially and economically affordable and equitable conditions.

This study is built within the context of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation and its target 6.4 on the increase of water use efficiency and fresh water supply.

III. MAIN QUESTION

Why are households of Mabanda still suffering from potable water accessibility despite the urban water policies being established by the city authorities?

1. How does the Water Supply System function in Mabanda?
2. Who are those involved in the drinking water management cycle and what are their degree of responsibilities?
3. Within a context of a persistent water crisis, what are the sanitary impacts that could originate from the limits in stakeholder's actions in the water supply system?
4. At what level is situated the gap between water demand and water supply in Mabanda?
5. How could the Sustainable Development Goal 6 focused on water and sanitation achieved in Douala when considering the present situation in one of its most important slump?

IV. RESEARCH METHOD

*Case Study Approach

- Documentary review
- Interviews
- Field Survey
- Observations (In situ)

*SWOT Analysis
*Cause and Effect Diagram
*Map Analysis
*Water Poverty Index Matrix
Plan-Do-Check-Act

II. THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

The overlapping roles of stakeholders within the Water Supply System

Main Problem
The limits and fragility of the political and socio-economic framework governing water supply in households of Mabanda.

- The deterioration (rust and bursting pipes) of the existing water supply infrastructures established since the colonial period.
- The exponential increase rate in the usage of informal water supply modes (street water illegal vending).
- The increase rate of sanitation crises due to water borne diseases (Cholera, dysentery etc.)

VI. THE STATE OF THE SOCIO-SANITARY ENVIRONMENT

A household well

VII. THE RESEARCH EXPECTATIONS

1. Determining the Water Poverty Index (WPI) in Mabanda as an indicator that could show the gap existing water demand and supply in this neighbourhood.
2. Reframing current understandings and the functioning of the water supply system through water infrastructural development as well as the role and responsibilities of CAMWATER (main water public service institution) and those of non-institutional in Cameroon.
3. Enriching debates on water governance perspectives in Cameroon and setting the outcomes of such a pilot study in attending the objectives set by the SDG 6.4 on fresh water supply efficiency.
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