

Cameroon: ALDED, Improving the Quality of Classroom Construction in the Mefou and Afamba District in Cameroon
Project Adviser: Adriana De Leva

Timeline and Budget: A grant Agreement was signed between PTF and Approches Locales pour le Développement Durable (ALDED) on December 30, 2010 for an amount of \$30,163. A first tranche of \$15,000 was disbursed to ALDED immediately following signature. A second tranche of \$12,000 was disbursed at the end of March following approval of the first progress report.

Background and Objectives: ALDED requested financial support of PTF to implement a project for improving the quality of classroom construction in the District of Mefou and Afamba in Cameroon. The one-year project aims at fighting corrupt practices of entrepreneurs and public officials in the construction of classrooms in the above-mentioned Departments, namely the misuse of public funds and poor quality construction. In keeping with Cameroon's Procurement Code, which provides that entrepreneurs must guarantee their work for a period of one year after completion, the project plans to follow up on the construction of classrooms in 29 primary and secondary schools in the District to check on the quality of the construction and the respect of legal requirements by the entrepreneurs. Specifically, the activities include the setting up of a database on the 29 classrooms; strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries of the classrooms to detect and report any problems with the classrooms upon completion (such as unmet specifications and poor quality of work); and ensuring that any reported construction problem is resolved within the time allowed by the Procurement Code of Cameroon. The beneficiaries include a multi-stakeholder group of 1) the populations in surrounding communities, 2) staff responsible for the schools, and 3) representatives of the parents-teachers association. The project will be called "*Projet d'appui au suivi participatif post-execution de 29 projets de salles de classe dans les établissements scolaires du Département de la Mefou et Afamba* ».

Current status: The first phase had two objectives 1) to constitute a database on the 29 projects, and 2) to strengthen capacity of stakeholders to monitor repair of faulty classroom construction. These two objectives have been achieved. During the next phase, the stakeholder group will be gearing up to hold construction companies to the task of repairing the observed deficiencies.