



RESELLERS OF HOUSEHOLD TAP WATER

Cotonou - BENIN

Cotonou: population 1,100,000 - 1,000 CFAF = US\$ 1.60



Women (with help from their children) are often in charge of water resale as a secondary income source, since their primary source of income is often located close to home.

FROM WATER RESELLER TO STANDPIPE OPERATOR

Reselling water from a private connection can be:

- a source of supplemental income for a family who resells to a few neighbors, or
- a full-time career for those who add a private standpipe (CFAF 70,000) and local distribution pipes (CFAF 1,000/meter).

PROFILE OF A LARGE-SCALE RESELLER IN VOSSA

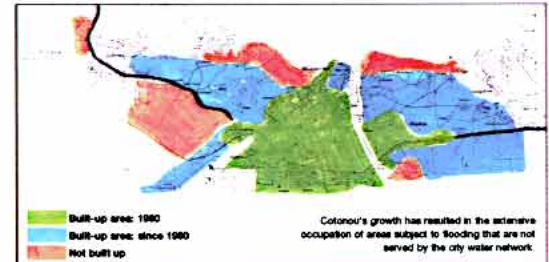
Since 1992, water has been distributed to the unauthorized Filifadji area of Cotonou by a resident of the neighboring Vossa subdivision. He has installed 800 meters of pipe connected to a meter serving this adjacent property.

IMPACT ON SERVICE OF WATER TARIFF STRUCTURE AND LACK OF TENURE

Because they have no official status, the household resellers receive no discount for larger purchases of water.

- On the contrary, they pay a higher rate of CFAF 340/m³ under a progressive two-level tariff system, plus 18 percent value added tax.
- they resell at CFAF 850/m³, with the selling price dependent on the number of clients, level of investment, and the extent of competition.

Lacking a contract with SBEE, and under the risk of expropriation because of lack of land tenure in unauthorized settlements, they chose to limit investment to equipment that will quickly pay back its cost.

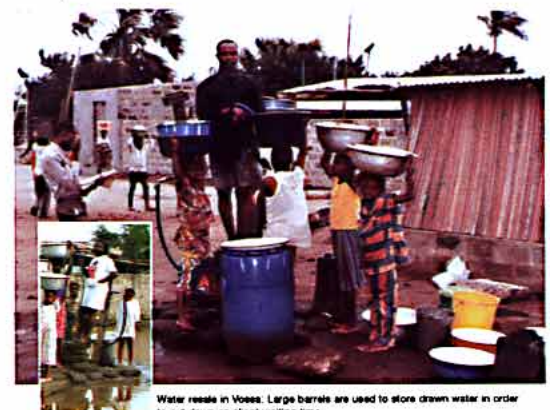


THOSE WITH TAPS SELL WATER TO THOSE WITHOUT

The Benin Water and Electricity Company (SBEE) delivers water only via individual household connections that serve 32 percent of households in planned and resettled urban areas.

In the absence of public standpipes, resale of water from individual household taps is the source of water for:

- 46 percent of families, generates nearly a third of overall water sales, and
- employs 800 people, or
- 44 percent of those employed in water provision.



Water resellers in Vossa. Large barrels are used to store drawn water in order to cut down on client waiting time.

