

Inventory and diagnosis of the public lighting network in the city of Benslimane

Energy efficiency in public lighting

Energy production and consumption are at the heart of global concerns. As a result of economic development, increasing industrialisation and technological progress, the demand for energy is constantly increasing. Morocco also faces these challenges. As a country that does not produce its own energy resources, Morocco is heavily dependent on imports for its energy supplies. However, this persistently high energy dependency - 96% until 2008 - has been declining since 2009, reaching 89% in 2019. Over the last two decades, gross national consumption of primary energy has risen by an average of almost 5%. It rose from 15.1 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MTOE) in 2009 to 23.37 MTOE in 2019. The country's final energy consumption increased by 33.8%, reaching 17 MTOE compared to 12.7 MTOE in 2009. Investments and appropriate energy strategies have been put in place to fully exploit the country's energy potential and meet the challenges associated with access to energy and energy efficiency. Public lighting is the largest single item of energy expenditure in local authorities. It accounts for between 30% and 40% of municipal energy consumption. In order to reduce this very high and costly consumption, it is essential to undertake measures to improve the public lighting service and make it more efficient.

The regional project "City-to-City Cooperation Maghreb-Germany (KWT II)", commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), was implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global gGmbH, from March 2020 to February 2024. Among other activities, the regional project supported project partnerships between German and Maghreb cities, particularly in the field of public lighting. The good practice described in this factsheet was developed by the partner cities of Benslimane and Bamberg. These practices will be scaled up as a part of the follow-up regional project "Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb", running from March 2024 to February 2027.



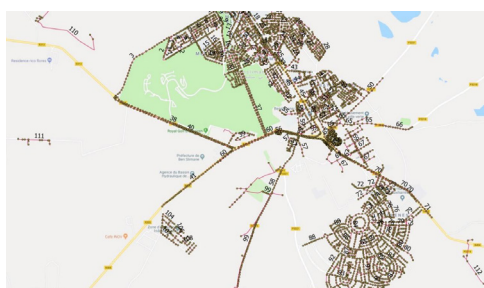
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In Morocco, the regional project KWT II was implemented in collaboration with the Directorate-General of Territorial Communities (DGCT) of the Ministry of the Interior. One of the project's partner cities was the urban municipality of Beni Mellal, located in the west of the country.

The municipality of Benslimane, also known as the "Green City", is characterised by its unspoiled natural environment and its strategic location close to the economic (Casablanca) and political (Rabat) capitals of the Kingdom. It has a relatively low population density and urban growth (58,194 inhabitants according to the 2014 General Population and Housing Census), with a surface area of 7,086 ha, close to a cork oak forest of almost 62,000 ha. Given these assets, the municipality has undertaken a number of environmental management initiatives, including the development of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

The management of the public lighting (PL) service is of great importance to the municipality of Benslimane. Since 2014, it has been managed directly by the municipal services, despite the lack of sufficient and relevant knowledge of the assets transferred.

To gain a better understanding of its public lighting assets, modernise them and improve their management, the municipality of Benslimane undertook an inventory and diagnosis of its public lighting network. The aim was to define an action plan, rationalise energy consumption and make the right decisions for the management of public lighting. This has been taking shape since 2016 as part of a project partnership with the German city of Bamberg, with support from the regional project KWT I and II.



Left: Overview of the mapping of the public lighting network in the municipality of Benslimane.

Right: Consultation meeting with partners from the municipality of Benslimane.



Approaches and actions

The inventory and diagnosis of the public lighting network (PLN) in Benslimane covered the entire municipality using a box-based¹ approach, including the following points:

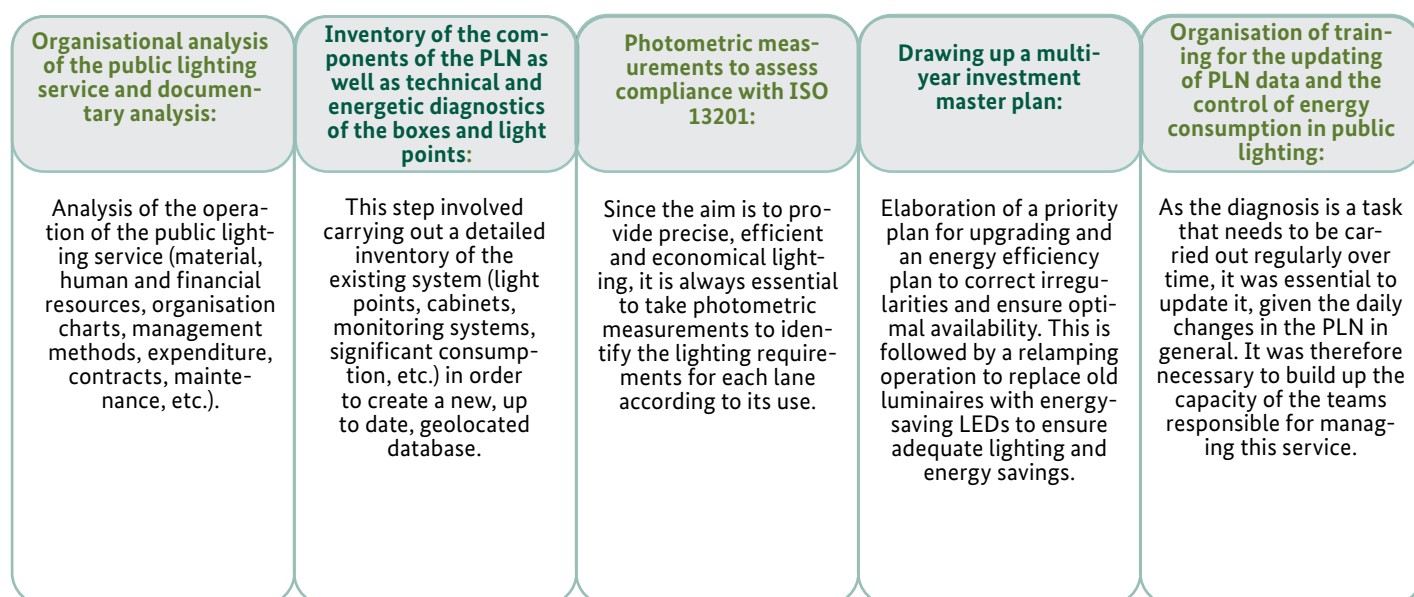


Diagram 01: Methodological approach. © GIZ



Achievements

The diagnosis project was completed in March 2018, providing the municipality of Benslimane with a decision-making tool for the management of public lighting. The inventory and diagnosis of the PLN provided the main figures on the size and condition of all the components of the municipality's PLN, namely: control and protection boxes, supports, luminaires, light sources and supply cables. The results were as follows:

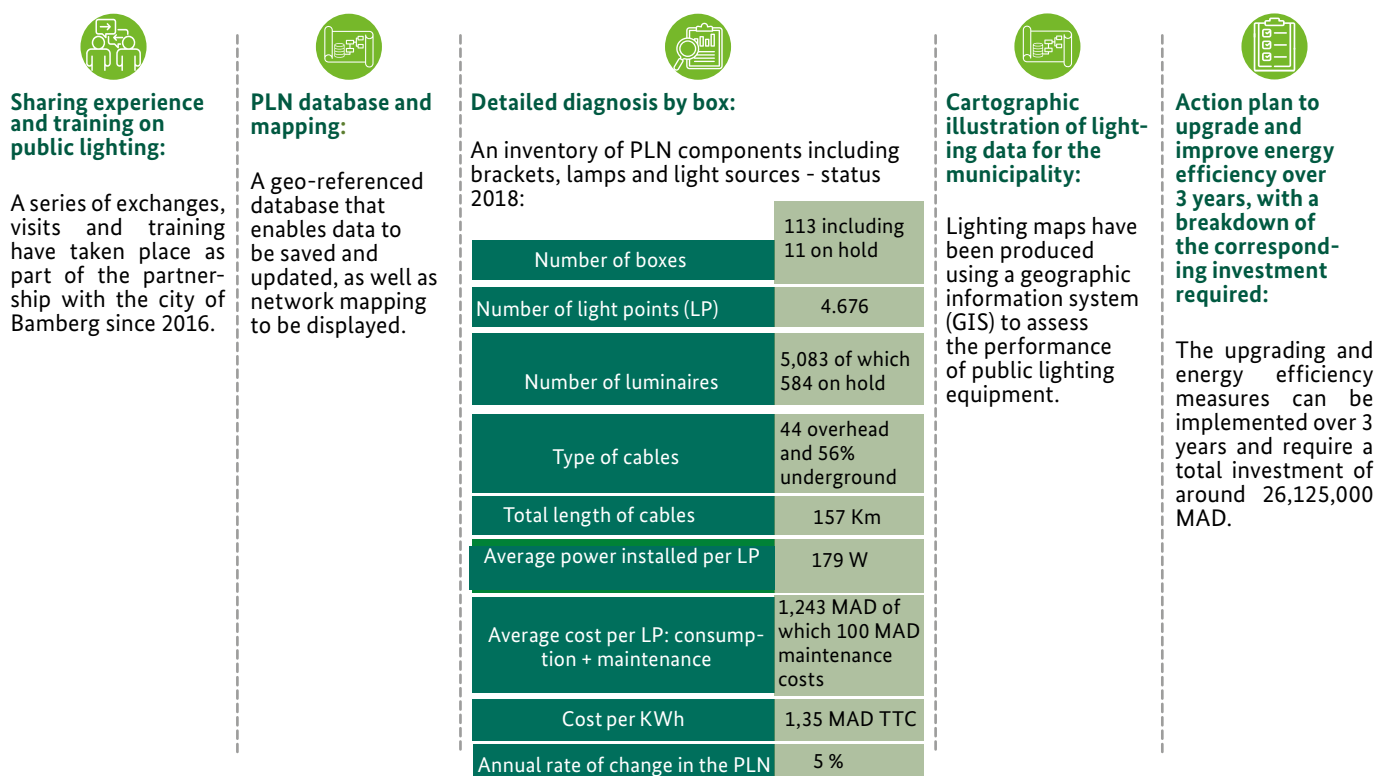


Diagram 02: Results achieved. © GIZ

¹ There is a light point based diagnostic approach and a box-based approach. An electrical box is a special enclosure designed to protect electrical equipment from environmental factors and human interference. It operates several light points.



Challenges

A number of challenges were encountered, requiring specific solutions. These are detailed in diagram 03:

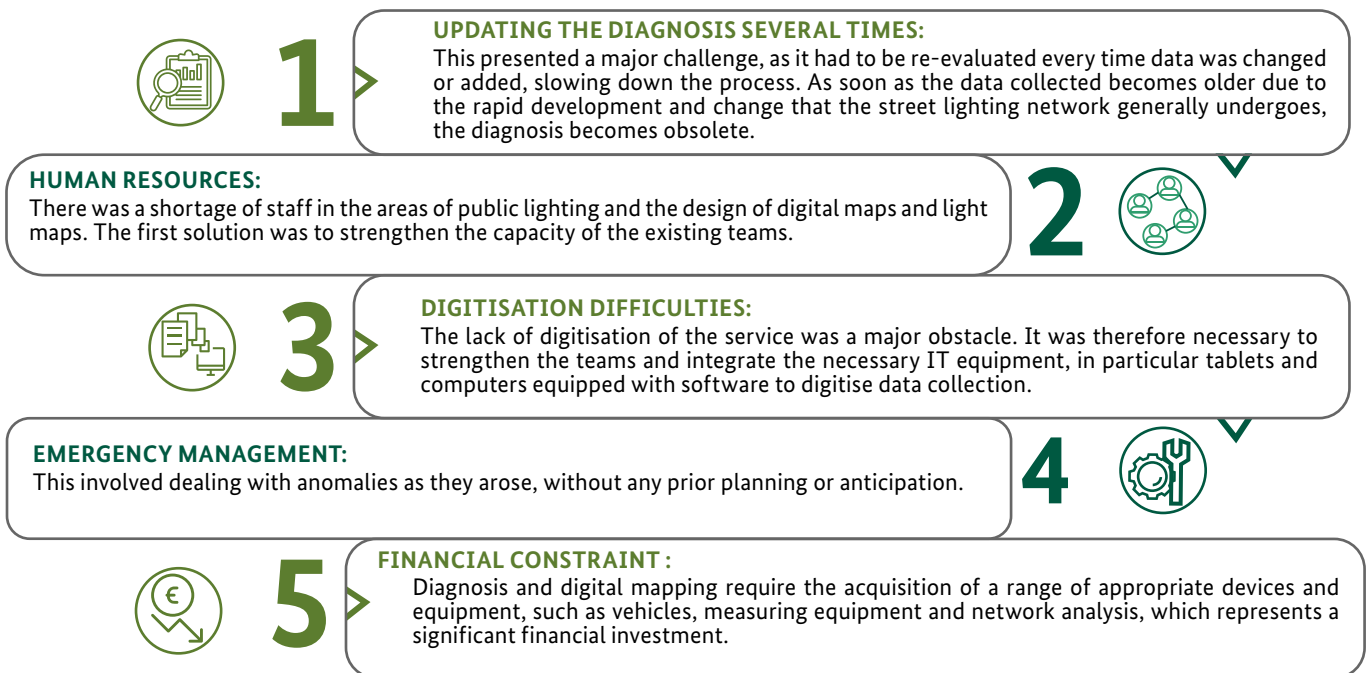


Diagram 03: Challenges encountered. © GIZ



Innovative aspects and strengths

The Benslimane project stood out for its strengths, reflecting a commitment to sustainable and efficient energy management (diagram 04):

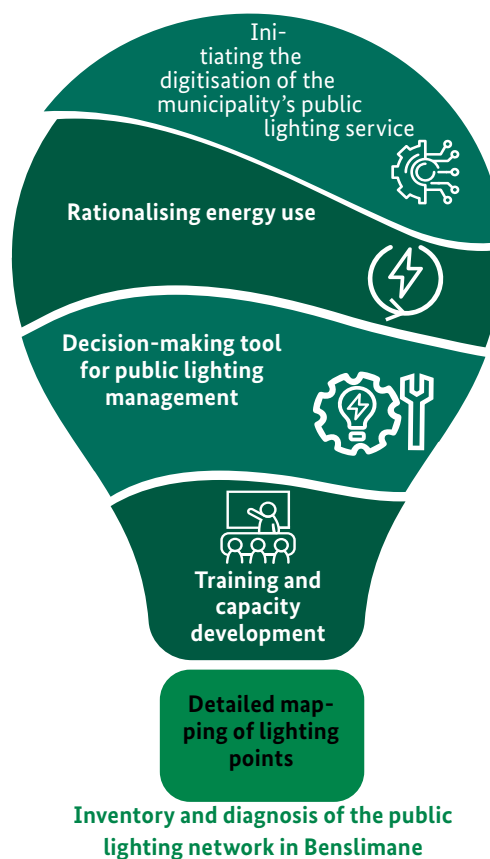


Diagram 04: Innovative aspects and strengths. © GIZ



Photos: Examples of sections of light points in the municipality of Benslimane (2018): on the left, light points served by an underground network, representing 56% of the energy supply, and on the right, those served by an overhead network, representing 44% of the energy supply.

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Best practices, lessons learnt and advice

Several lessons have been learnt, best practices and advice identified from the experience in Benslimane, which should be considered when implementing similar projects (diagram 05):

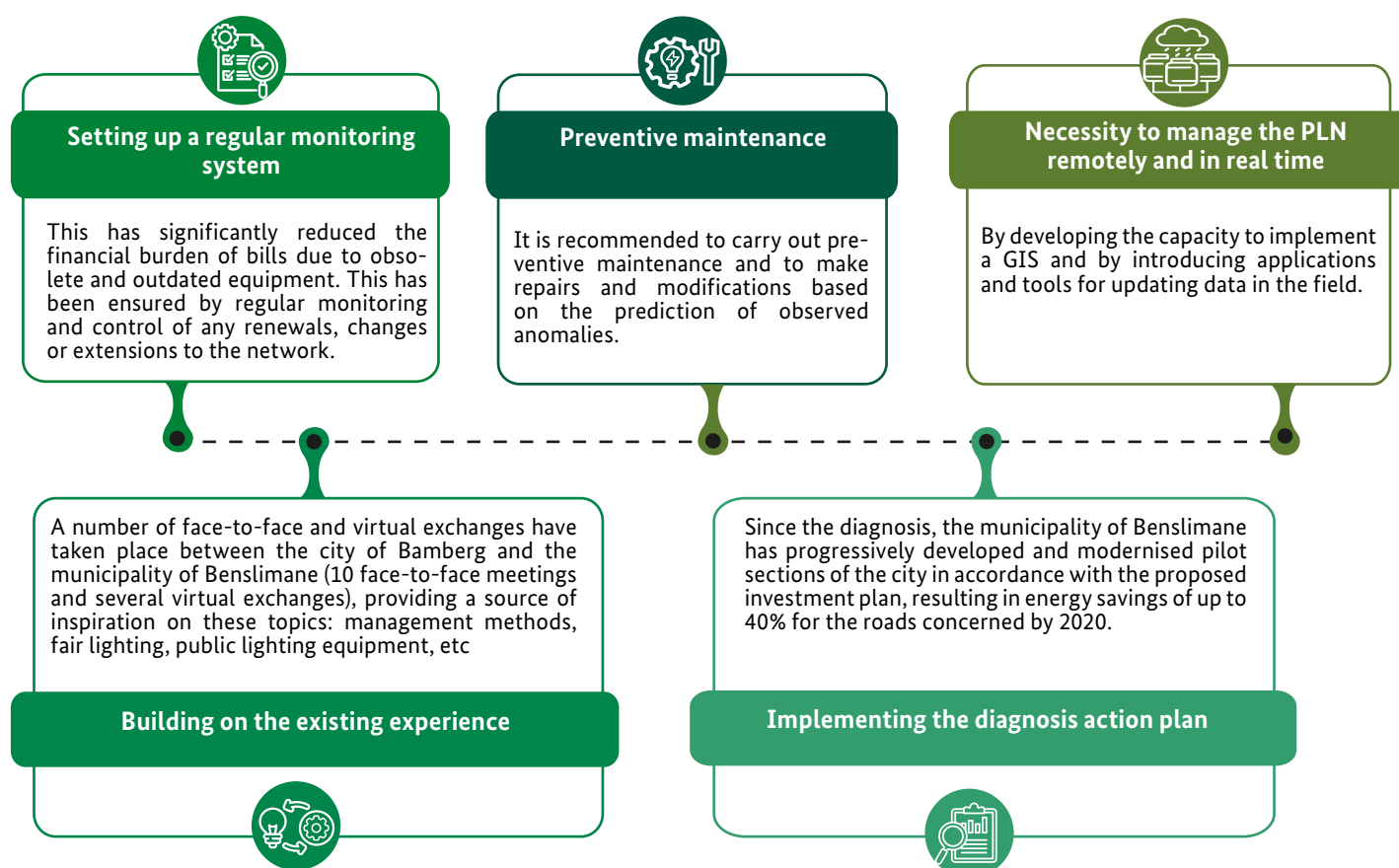


Diagram 05: Good practices, lessons learnt and advice. © GIZ

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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As at

October 2024

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On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with

Directorate-General of Territorial Communities (DGCT)
within the Ministry of the Interior in Morocco