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ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL SERVICE AGENCY

Citizen participation for a local circular economy in Mostaganem and Constantine

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Circular economy and waste management

Integrated waste management is a major challenge for local authorities in the context of rapid population growth. International initiatives focus on sustainable practices that encourage waste reduction and sorting at the source, recycling and responsible waste disposal. In Algeria, waste management has become a strategic priority for the government. The country is committed to adopting an approach based on sustainability and the promotion of circular economy, including innovative awareness-raising strategies and incentive policies.

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. The good practices highlighted in this fact sheet have been developed by the city of Mostaganem in partnership with the Rhine-Neckar district through its public-law institution, AVR Kommunal Sinsheim, as well as the partner cities of Constantine and Aschaffenburg. These practices will be scaled up as part of the follow-up regional project "Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb", running from March 2024 to February 2027.

Pilot experiment on waste sorting at the source and integrated waste management in selected neighbourhoods of Mostaganem and Constantine

In Algeria, the regional project KWT II was implemented in collaboration with the National Urban Planning Agency (ANURB) of the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and the City.

The initiatives resulted from project partnerships between the Rhine-Neckar district and the city of Mostaganem, and between the cities of Aschaffenburg and Constantine, as part of the regional project KWT II.

The approach was to integrate civil society organisations into the transition towards a circular economy at the local level by involving them in the operational management of waste. This initiative has fostered active participation from local communities, associations and neighbourhood committees in waste pre-collection and the sale of recyclable materials. The revenue generated from these activities has been used for the maintenance and upkeep of the neighbourhoods.

This approach has successfully helped to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills, lower treatment costs and creating a financial resource for associations to improve the living conditions of residents.

Approaches and actions

The integrated waste management initiatives in the Mostaganem Chemouma 320 housing estate, as well as the Mimosa and Boumerzoug housing estates in Constantine followed a methodical process in three main phases:

a) Reflection and planning: Creation of a steering committee and identification of potential partners to define objectives, to determine the waste fractions to be sorted and to select pilot neighbourhoods based on a predefined set of criteria and collected data. This phase also included the elaboration of an implementation plan for activities, a communication and awareness raising strategy and the elaboration of operational monitoring indicators. The aim was also to clarify the specific role of each partner.

b) Implementation: The training of waste recovery ambassadors. This step involved among others targeted communication campaigns, setting up platforms equipped with sorting kits, drawing up contracts with recyclers, planning the official launch of the initiative and finally, regularly reporting on the quantities sorted,





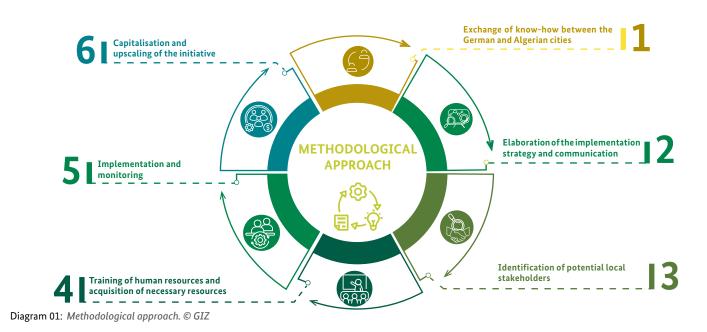
Left: Recycling kit installed at Mostaganem Chemouma 320 housing estate.

Right: Training session for waste recovery ambassadors in Constantine.

highlighting the maintenance actions carried out thanks to the income generated.

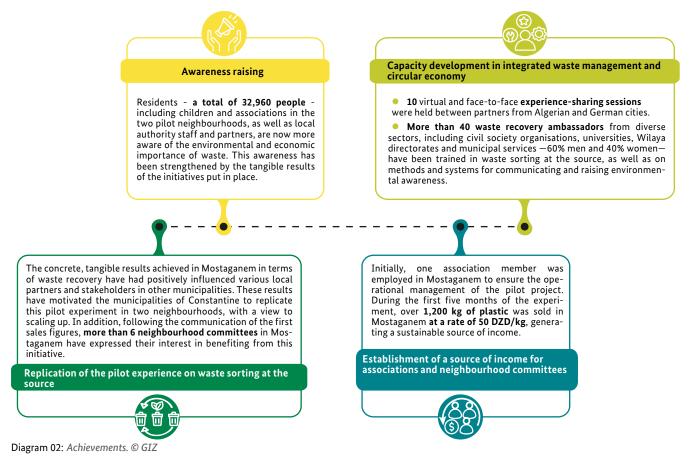
c) Monitoring and evaluation: This was done through regular site visits, statistical analyses of the quantities collected, surveys of residents to gather their assessment and capitalising on the experience with a view to learning lessons for similar projects in the future.

Diagram 01 summarises the methodology adopted:



Achievements

The pilot projects in Mostaganem and Constantine have achieved the following results (diagram 02):



Challenges

Many challenges and obstacles were encountered, necessitating tailored solutions. These challenges are detailed in diagram 03:

OVERCOME

CHALLENGES

IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC OPERATORS

The aim was to identify economic operators willing to handle small quantities of sorted fractions. Partnering with issue by providing a **comprehensive list of existing recyclers and reclaimers** within the municipality. The neighbourhood committee then engaged in negotiations, emphasizing the project's sustainability and the short-, medium- and long-term benefits of the collaboration.

PROTECTING SORTED MATERIALS AGAINST THE INFORMAL SECTOR

Collection points were strategically located to ensure that the pre-collection facilities remained visible to all. Additionally, the neighbourhood committee implemented security measures, such as fixing pins and appropriate locking systems, to safeguard these recyclable fractions.

STORAGE OF SORTED MATERIALS

The large volume of plastic bottles presented a marketing challenge, resulting in storage issues. To remedy this situation, **the storage area was rearranged** a few weeks after the project was launched. Simultaneously, **a new awareness campaign** was launched to encourage residents to compress their bottles before depositing them in the pre-collection bin.

LACK OF COMMITMENT FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND CITIZENS

Several communication and awareness-raising campaigns have been planned and implemented. The aim was to promote the ecological, social and economic value of waste sorting at the source, convincing local stakeholders of the relevance of the proposed concept and encouraging the active participation of residents in this initiative.

COORDINATION ISSUES AMONG MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERS

Although the partners were convinced by the proposed concept, some of them did not have a clear understanding of their roles in the project, making it imperative to **draw up a detailed collaboration agreement** to formalise precisely the responsibilities of each player involved.

SELECTION OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

Although a selection grid had been drawn up beforehand, this initially posed a problem for the local authorities, which were forced to opt for neighbourhood committees that had already carried out other environmental activities such as clean-up campaigns and maintenance of green spaces.

Diagram 03: Challenges encountered. © GIZ

Innovative aspects and strengths

The two initiatives stood out for their strengths, reflecting a commitment to integrated waste management and circular economy (diagram 04):



Diagram 04: Innovative aspects and strengths of the projects. © GIZ





Left: Overview of the sorting instructions leaflet distributed during the awareness campaign, detailing the proper use of waste bins installed in residential areas.

Right: PET plastics sorted by residents and prepared for sale at Mostaganem Chemouma 320 housing estate. Plastics are collected at regular weekly intervals.

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Best practices, lessons learnt and recommendations

Several important lessons have been learnt and best practices identified from the experiences in Mostaganem and Constantine, which should be considered when implementing similar projects (diagram 05):



ACTIVE AND **CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION AND** AWARENESS-RAISING

EXPLORATION OF

The

surveys.

REWARD MEASURES

Training in the fields of circular economy, communication, awareness-raising and environmental topics facilitates dialogue with residents. Furthermore, communicating concrete qualitative and quantitative results strengthens the support and confidence of decision-makers and even citizens.

ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE AND

incentives to motivate citizens and raise

their awareness, leading us to reflect on

creative approaches to incentives and encouragement, based on the wishes expressed by residents during satisfaction

experiments carried out have highlighted the importance of financial

FORMALISATION OF PARTNER ROLES

It is beneficial to clearly delineate and share the responsibilities of involved parties through a consultable collaboration agreement, which can be referenced at each project phase.

SETTING CLEAR,

It is essential to define concrete, achievable targets, starting modestly with one or two specific materials to be sorted, before gradually extending the scope of sorting.



ADOPTION OF A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The success of local initiatives depends highly on the commitment of the municipality and residents. Thus, it is crucial that the municipality supports the project by allocating adequate resources and facilitating coordination among various stakeholders. Moreover, securing local residents' engagement with the integrated waste management concept is essential for achieving the desired objectives.



IMPLEMENTATION OF A MONITORING AND CONTROL SYSTEM

It is advisable to develop operational monitoring indicators in consultation with all stakeholders. Regular surveys and evaluations are needed to identify challenges and make any necessary adjustments, taking into account feedback from local residents. This approach will ensure the sustainability of the project.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING

PRACTICAL

EXPERIENCE

The mobilisation of dedicated and proactive personnel is essential. This committee plays a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of stakeholders, associations, residents and both administrative and economic partners.

Diagram 05: Best practices, lessons learnt and recommendations. © GIZ

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