

Citizen participation for a local circular economy in Mostaganem and Constantine

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



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

Right: Training session for waste recovery ambassadors in Constantine.

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:

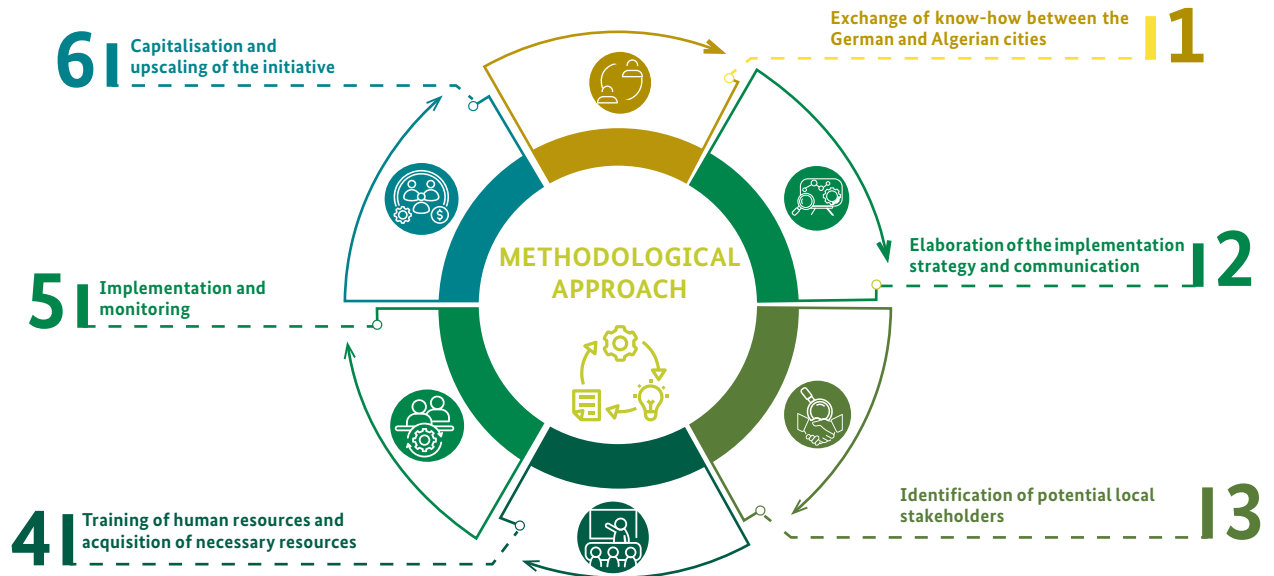


Diagram 01: Methodological approach. © GIZ



Achievements

The IWMMP of the municipality of Oued El Aneb has achieved the following results (diagram 02):

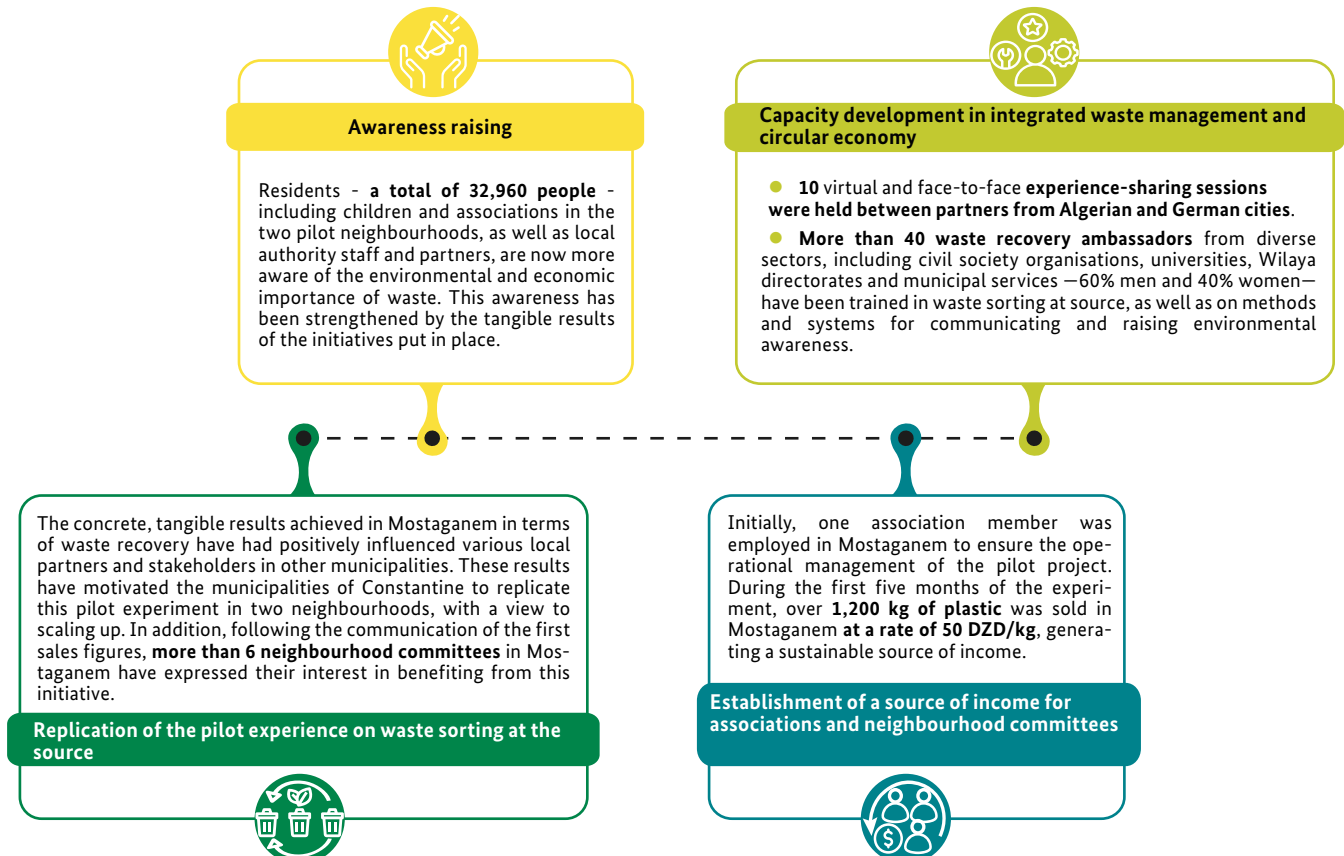


Diagram 02: Achievements. © GIZ



Challenges

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

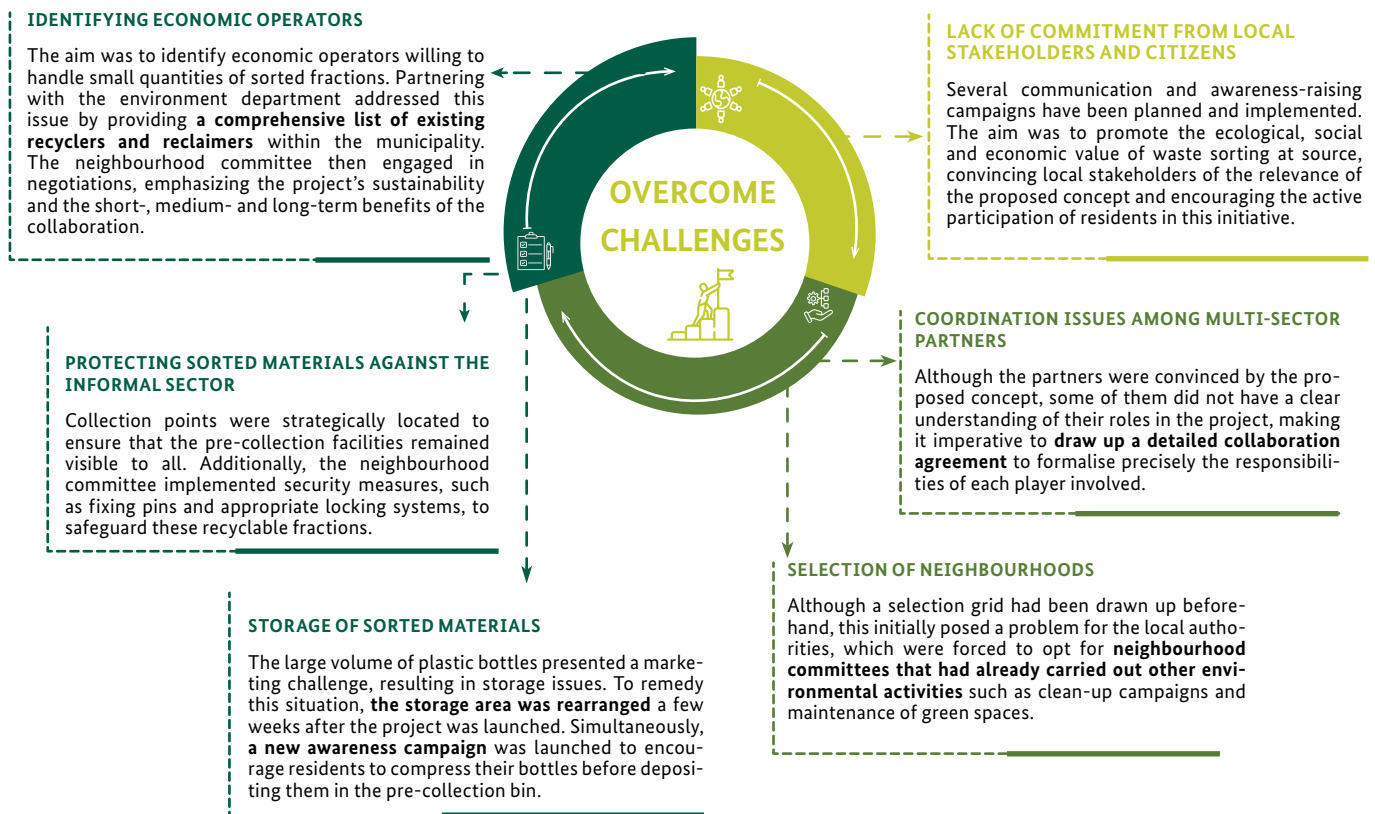


Diagram 03: Challenges encountered. © GIZ



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 advice

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):

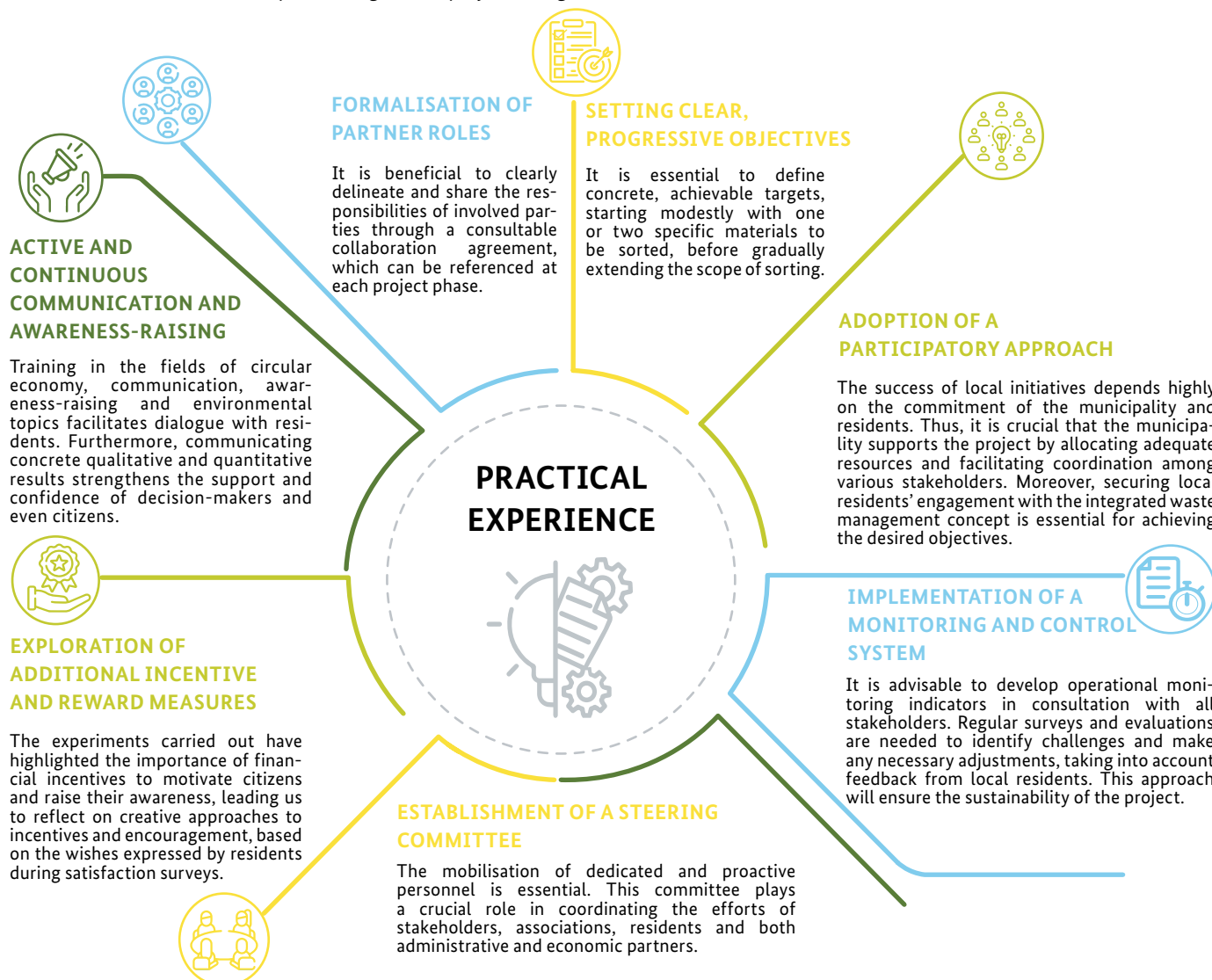


Diagram 05: Best practices, lessons learnt and advice. © GIZ

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