

Improving the management of household and similar waste: Setting up a home composting system in Jendouba and Kasserine

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 Tunisia, 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 factsheet have been developed by the partner cities Jendouba and Wolfsburg as well as Kasserine and Munich. 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.



Setting up a home composting system in Kasserine and Jendouba

In Tunisia, the regional project KWT II was implemented in collaboration with the Directorate-General for External Relations and Decentralised International Cooperation of the Ministry of the Interior.

The municipality of Kasserine embarked on a home composting pilot project as part of a project partnership with the German city of Munich, benefiting from the expertise and support of the regional project KWT II. The aim of the project was to equip 80 households in the municipality of Kasserine with composting machines to transform their biodegradable household waste into high-quality compost. The compost produced is used to feed plants and improve the fertility of the region's farmland.

As for the municipality of Jendouba, the home composting project was part of an integrated household and similar waste management approach adopted by the municipality. Its main aim was to improve the management of household and similar waste by setting up a replicable composting system. This project took shape within the framework of a project partnership with the German city of Wolfsburg and benefited from support provided by the regional project KWT II.

The two projects also introduced the inhabitants of the two cities to the circular economy through waste recovery, as a vector for agricultural development and environmental protection.



Approaches and actions

The methodological approach of the home composting project in Kasserine included the following steps (diagram 01):

1. Surveys of households in the Olympic city neighbourhood to select beneficiaries.
2. Implementation of an awareness-raising and information programme for households and schoolchildren, involving neighbourhood associations and schools.
3. Training of beneficiaries (citizens, associations, municipality employees) and composting ambassadors.
4. Acquisition and distribution of composters and dedicated compost bins.
5. Distribution of home composting guides to the beneficiaries of the composters.
6. Support by a working group from the waste management department and civil society organisations who carry out door-to-door monitoring.



Left: Supporting citizens in the practice of home composting in Kasserine.

Right: Evolution of composting. After 6 months of decomposition, the compost can be used in the soil.

For the project in Jendouba, the methodological approach was limited to the first three steps. Due to budgetary constraints, the municipality of Jendouba was unable to purchase composters for the beneficiaries. However, some of the participants in the training courses used the skills they had acquired to compost in piles at home.

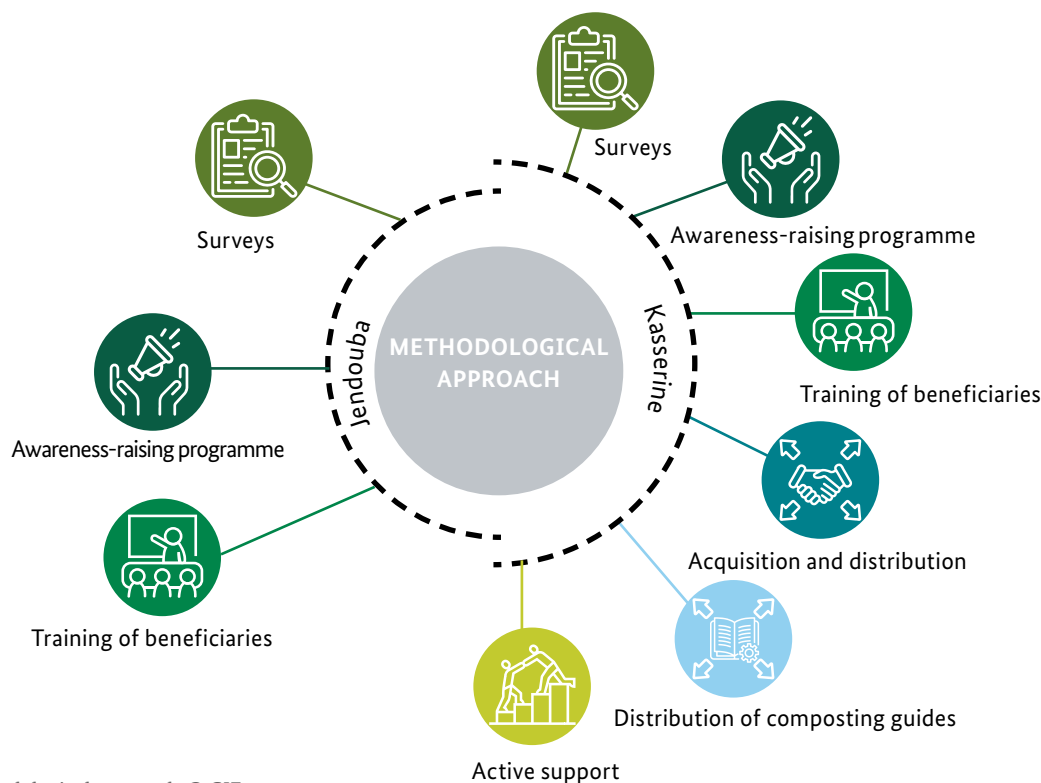


Diagram 01: Methodological approach. © GIZ



Achievements

The two projects led to the following results (diagram 02):

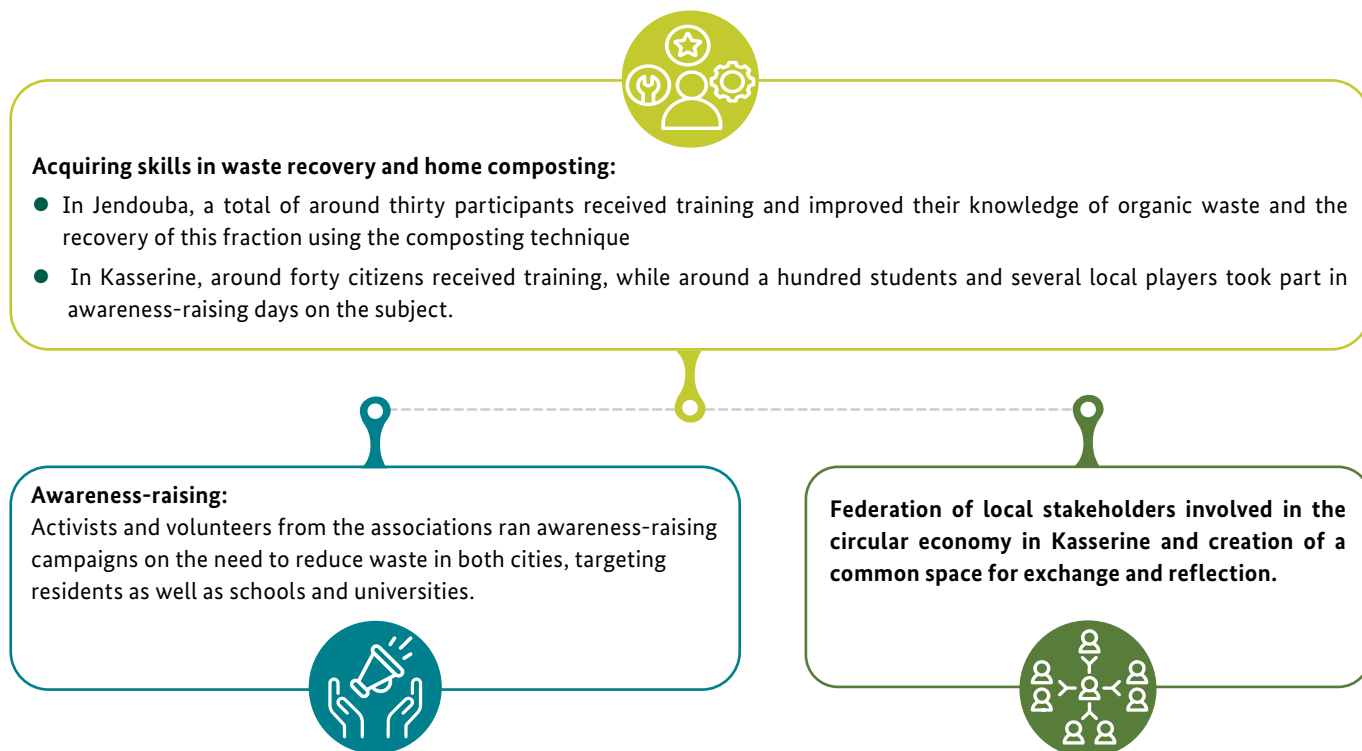


Diagram 02: The results achieved by the two projects. © GIZ



Challenges

Two major challenges were encountered, requiring specific solutions. They are detailed in diagram 03:



WEAK COMMITMENT FROM MUNICIPAL PARTIES AT THE BEGINNING

Initially, there was limited commitment from local stakeholders. To address this, a local association was mobilised. This association carried out and monitored activities, alongside raising awareness and providing support to citizens.



BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS:

In Jendouba, after the composting training, the implementation of the other stages of the project faced a funding challenge. Due to a budget deficit, the municipality had to reallocate the funds earmarked for the purchase of composters to other priority expenditures.

Diagram 03: Challenges overcome. © GIZ



Innovative aspects and strengths

The projects in Jendouba and Kasserine stood out for their strengths, reflecting a commitment to sustainable waste management and the circular economy (diagram 04):

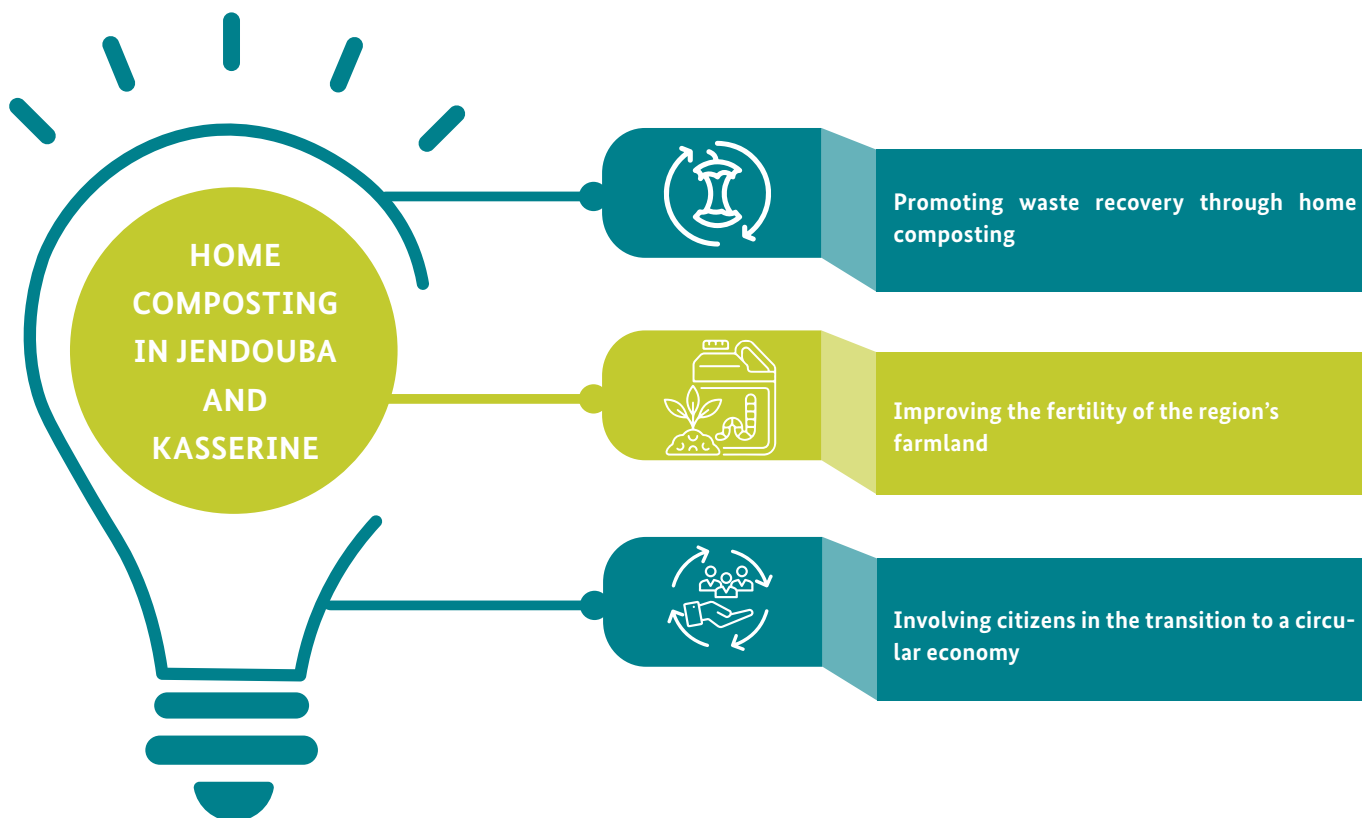


Diagram 04: Innovative aspects and strengths. © GIZ



Training and awareness-raising on home composting for residents of the El Madina Eljadida, El Basatine and El Aarich neighbourhoods in Kasserine, 30/11/2023 and 11/12/2023.

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Best practices, lessons learnt and advice

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



Building on the existing experience

Jendouba and Kasserine were inspired by the cities of Wolfsburg and Munich during face-to-face and virtual exchanges on the management of waste and the circular economy.



Involvement of civil society organisations

The involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) contributed to the success of the experiences made in Kasserine and Jendouba. The municipalities and CSOs worked together closely to implement the projects in the two regions.



Generate own revenue

It is recommended that municipalities seek solutions to develop and improve their own resources in order to be able to finance actions to enhance their services.

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

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