



## The partnership between Dabola (Guinea) and Dortmund

### Together for a cleaner city: improvements in waste management



#### Context and objective

Dabola is a dynamic city in Guinea, with a population of 47,200. Located approximately 430 km from the capital Conakry, it is a vibrant hub for traditional agricultural activities, trade, and craftsmanship. However, the city faces significant challenges due to rapid population growth and inadequate waste management, which negatively impact public health and the environment. Insufficient infrastructure and the accumulation of waste in public spaces threaten the well-being of residents and the local ecosystem.

In response to these challenges, a partnership between Dabola and Dortmund was established in 2019, focusing on solid waste collection and treatment as well as environmental education. This project engages various stakeholders, ranging from municipal authorities to civil society organizations, and includes active participation from the private sector, particularly micro and small enterprises.

Since August 2022, a local expert has been assisting the municipality of Dabola in developing a sustainable waste management system and strengthening the capacities of local actors.



#### Participatory and inclusive methodological approach

The initiative kicked off with consultation meetings that brought together all relevant stakeholders: municipal decision-makers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, and community groups. This step enabled a comprehensive assessment of the current waste situation and the identification of areas for improvement. Based on this assessment, a waste management concept was developed and validated by the town hall, emphasizing the negative impacts of improper management and the benefits of a controlled approach.

The concept highlights the development of local stakeholders' skills and environmental education, while also integrating concrete pilot projects on the ground.



## Implementation and challenges

The implemented actions, which include tests on recycling plastics to produce floor tiles and the installation of waste containers in strategic locations (e.g. bus stations, the main market, schools) have already yielded positive results. These efforts, in collaboration with a local NGO, have significantly reduced waste in the city. Furthermore, a women's cooperative has been involved in street cleaning, receiving appropriate equipment and attire with the support of Dortmund's waste management service. Additionally, a project to close an illegal dumpsite in the city center was developed and approved with the decisive support of the local expert. This initiative enabled Dortmund's waste management company to provide the Guinean partner municipality with two collection vehicles for efficient waste transfer to a new landfill that is being developed outside the city. To this end, collection points have been established in the city center to facilitate transportation.

Despite being in the pilot stage due to budget constraints, the initial results are promising. Together, Dabola and Dortmund are paving the way towards a cleaner and more sustainable future, engaging the entire community in the process.



## Outcomes for the target group and the involved stakeholders

Thanks to the support from Dortmund's waste management services and committed civil society partners, the women's cooperative working in urban cleanliness received new attire and work tools. These contributions significantly improved their working and hygiene conditions. Additionally, the women were supported in creating a handmade soap production, which not only generates income but also enhances their autonomy and participation opportunities.

In a similar vein, three associations of market vendors were trained in organic waste valorization. With an initial small composting facility, they successfully produced 25 bags of compost, which serve as fertilizer for small-scale farmers.

Building on the cooperation established so far, the municipality of Dabola plans to delegate certain waste management services to micro and small enterprises. This process, which is already underway, is closely monitored by the local expert to ensure the creation of effective and sustainable waste management structures.



## Learnings and conclusions

The implementation of a waste management plan, developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, marked a significant turning point in Dabola. This initiative not only strengthened cooperation between the municipal administration and external actors but also established fruitful partnerships with private companies specializing in the field. As a result of these collaborative efforts, Dabola has seen a notable decrease in street waste.

In summary, Dabola's initiative to delegate certain waste management tasks to small private companies not only promises more efficient waste management but also supports the local economy and strengthens the community. It is crucial to emphasize the importance of rigorous monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of these initiatives. It is therefore recommended to conduct quarterly analyses of the small and micro-enterprises as well as the structures responsible for executing the plan. This systematic approach will facilitate necessary adjustments and encourage collective reflection on sustainable solutions for the Dabola community.