

Waste Management Initiative

Growth and Employment in States - Wholesale and Retail Trade (GEMS4) is an economic development project jointly funded by the World Bank and DFID/UKaid. Its aim is to facilitate non-oil, private sector led economic growth. GEMS4 is focused on increasing incomes and employment opportunities in the wholesale and retail sector, by providing solutions to systemic constraints and the inclusion of small and micro enterprises into better functioning market systems. The overarching goal is the creation of 10,000 new jobs and increased incomes for 500,000 people, especially for the poor and for women. Utilizing the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) approach, GEMS4 is working with market actors, linking them and changing market incentives so they serve each other better. The project is also building local capacity so the market better meets the long-term needs of the poor.

The Constraint

In Nigeria, virgin raw materials for the production of plastic, metal and paper are only available through importation, significantly increasing manufacturer's production costs. At the macro level, a dependence on importation of raw materials also has negative effects on the economy. Local manufacturers do have an alternative, such as the use of recycled (reprocessed) material. The cost is significantly lower, the output quality consistent and there is a potential ready supply.

Most cities generate tons of recyclable waste, and in Nigeria's mega city, Lagos, it is estimated that 730,000 metric tonnes are generated daily. Studies project a 208 million increase in the Nigerian urban population by 2050, and a quadrupling of the waste generated by 2025. Presently, the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) is able to service only a fraction of the actual number of markets, industries and residential premises in Lagos.

For a recycling program to work, having a large, stable supply of recyclable material is crucial. In Nigeria, despite an abundant availability of waste,



there is a lack of sufficient numbers of low-skilled workers required to feed the supply chain. In Lagos Annually only 5% of waste is recycled. Clearly, private sector led, commercial waste management, presents a significant opportunity to generate jobs and incomes for the poor in the many Nigerian urban centres.

The Initiative

The Waste Management Initiative is an access to markets intervention, focused on providing employment opportunities for the poor in the waste management value chain. Activities will increase awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of recycling materials such as: aluminium cans, PET bottles, paper, glass and scrap metal. Activities will also bridge the communication gap between recycling firms and waste collectors and provide technical support for Recycling firms to increase operational efficiency and scale.

Initiative Partners include: B.B.Y Limited, Kano, Abantu Development and Recycling Points, Lagos.

The Strategy

The strategy involves: (i) Capacity building support to poor actors on the employment opportunities in recycling and commercial waste management;



waste. The project is geared to create a messenger app that will act as a market place. Buyers will be able to post the waste material needed and sellers can post waste material available. The app enables seamless communication between buyers and sellers, who will be able to chat privately to discuss payment terms and exchange relevant information. This way, there will be a ready market for waste materials. The project is engaging with a recycling firm, with a vast network of service providers, to champion the messenger.

and (ii) access to markets linkages for cooperative groups to recycling firms; and (iii) a communication technology component to increase the demand and supply of waste.

GEMS4 is supporting a women's cooperative group - Abantu Development - by facilitating access to a skills acquisition service provider focused on waste management. The service provider trains Abantu members on recycling and the employment opportunities in waste collection. They are also trained on health and safety skills and how to effectively source and sort recyclables. The model is increasing the number of waste collectors available and the quantity of waste to recycling firms, enabling Abantu Development provide a steady supply of recyclables to recycling firms.

GEMS4 is also working with recycling firms, to create jobs and increased income for low-income earners by linking them with a cooperative group of trained waste pickers.

An additional strategy is the use of communication technology to increase the demand and supply of

Results

The initiative expected results include:

- Increased number and income of waste collectors
- Increased number and income of waste buyers
- Increased number of waste management service providers
- Less waste on the dumpsites

This initiative has potentials for creating pro-poor employment opportunities for women and unskilled youth as waste collectors and sorters. This in turn will result in inclusion of the poor into income generating activities. In the long term, the initiative will lead to a reduction in the consumption of virgin raw materials, decreased air pollution (from incineration) decreased water pollution (from landfilling) and a lowering of greenhouse gas emissions; clearly presenting economic and environmental benefits.

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