



Food waste

Action 6.4

FOOD POLICY

Clean Quelimane: organic compost from food waste to improve agricultural production

KEY WORDS

Compost, circular economy, waste management

OBJECTIVES

- To enhance the city's cleanliness through a sustainable solid waste management system.
- To improve the health of the population by transforming solid waste into compost.

POLICY DESCRIPTION

Quelimane used to have a waste management problem that contributed to diseases outbreaks like diarrhoea, cholera..., which represented a big challenge for the city. A second problem was the high prevalence of children malnutrition (33%). The initiative "Clean Quelimane" emerged to respond to these problems by setting up a solid waste selection project that transforms waste into compost and distributes it to urban farmers and schools orchards, allowing for an increase in production and productivity. Participating schools are selected based on their available land and students' level of interest.

The City Council works in areas where the poorest citizens reside, the malnutrition rates are the highest, and where there are the most vulnerable situations in terms of climate change related risks.

MUSA (the Municipal Sanitation Enterprise) collects waste and works with groups of private cooperatives that are trained and paid to select the waste at the delivery point, the waste is then taken to the transformation unit, where it becomes compost. Farmers can then go to the distribution centre and get the amount of compost that they need, without any limitation regarding quantity. In addition, the City Council sets up a demonstration plot managed by municipal technicians. This plot is divided into cultivated parcels of land with and without compost, to show farmers the impact of its use, since at the beginning they were a bit reluctant to do so, due to lack of practice and knowledge. The municipal technicians train farmers at their plot and in the demonstration centre. Nutrition classes are also organised for farmers and students on how to have a balanced and healthy diet. The production of the demonstration centre is donated to social institutions such as hospitals or nursing homes.

Furthermore, the City Council holds yearly food fairs where food related workshops are organised and every farmer can showcase and sell their production.

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The initiative started in 2018 and it is still ongoing, aiming at long term continuity.

DEPARTMENTS IN CHARGE

Directorate of Sanitation, Waste Management, Environment and Climate Change – Department of Sanitation and Waste Management
Directorate of Economic activities – Department of Agriculture.

City councillors

Geographical leaders from the five city districts

Directorate of Education – Department of Education and Social Affairs.





€ BUDGET

27,000 € as an initial budget.
3,217 € as a yearly budget.



👤 BENEFICIARIES

480 farmers, organised in 4 farmers' associations, with 120 members each, namely: Associação dos Camponeses do Namuinho, Associação dos Camponeses bons sinais, Associação dos Camposes do Sangariveira e a Associação do Gogone,
40 students
5 schools

ASPIRATIONAL QUANTITATIVE OBJECTIVES

400 kg of compost per week

Overall aspiration of the food policies committed to The Barcelona Challenge:

<https://toolkit.thebcnchallenge.org/challenges/report/337>

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Celím and *Manitese*: two Italian NGOs. The City Council created a consortium with them and applied for a European funded project.

Milan municipality

STRENGTHS AND SUCCESS POINTS

The initiative creates social inclusion and brings in support for farmers through technology transfer and training, improving production volume and productivity.

One of the successful aspects of the policy is the improvement in terms of the city's cleanliness. It also contributes to the improvement of children's nutrition; since there is an increase in the productivity and quality of plants, there is more and better quality of food available.

Furthermore, this initiative gives visibility to the city and the City Council has been invited worldwide to explain it. Hence, it has opened new funding opportunities to apply for new projects.

CRITICAL POINTS

It is important to consult with people, listen to them and involve them in all stages of the project. In that sense, the project must be led from the bottom up to make sure it responds to people's needs. It is also crucial to find dedicated people with the right qualifications and to obtain the financial resources needed.



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OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS

At the beginning, farmers did not engage with the project. The City Council analysed the reasons behind that and set up the demonstration plot, which contributed to increase their involvement.

Another obstacle was the fact that the city did not have any prior experience or knowledge on this kind of project so mistakes were made and corrected through trial and error and listening to people. Thus, the project was monitored on an on-going basis to make the necessary adjustments.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Quelimane City Council Facebook page](#)