

# Support towards the improvement of the city of Bata's environmental conditions after the 7 March 2021 explosions



**COUNTRY:** Equatorial Guinea

**PROJECT TITLE:** Support towards the improvement of the city of Bata's environmental conditions after the 7 March 2021 explosions

**PROJECT DURATION:** March 2022 - March 2023

**PARTNERSHIPS:** The Government of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea, Ministry of Interior and Local Corporations, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment, Equatorial Guinea's National Recycling Company SL, Ministry of Health and Social Well-being, Bata City Hall.

**BUDGET:** US\$ 695,343.26

## DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

On 7 March 2021, the city of Bata (309,345 inhabitants) - the most populous city in Equatorial Guinea - was rocked by a series of explosions that occurred at a military barracks in the neighborhood of Nkoantomán. The incident triggered the deaths of over 100 people and injured 612, in addition to considerable material damage, including to the city's waste treatment centre (WTC). As a result, the government requested the assistance of the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC). UNREC together with the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team implemented field missions which highlighted actionable recommendations for the national authorities. In response, the government made a commitment to implement the recommendations, which were aimed at preventing similar accidents in the future.

The WTC was built by the Government in 2014 and performed the following tasks when it was operational: separation of waste by categories, recycling of some of the waste in environmentally responsible activities and the use of landfills. The fact that the only WTC of the city had become inoperative meant that all the waste generated by the explosions was carried straight to landfills without receiving proper treatment, including what is currently being generated by businesses and citizens.

Additionally, the waste policy in place has many loopholes regarding waste management practices. For example, it is not clear how it addresses key issues of concern, such as product life cycles, preventing waste production and promotion of recycling, including the classification of waste that must be taken to landfills.

## OBJECTIVES

The project has four objectives:

- rehabilitating the waste treatment center of the city of Bata.
- promoting better environmental management through development of focused environmental guidelines and improved environmental governance.
- training and sensitizing key sectors involved (city hall, ministry of interior, ministry of environment, ministry of health, community groups etc.) on environmental and waste management practices.
- sensitizing and building awareness of the population at large on best environmental management practices.

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

**Output 1:** Waste treatment center rehabilitated.

**Output 2:** Assessment and formulation of the environmental recycling for the city of Bata enabled.

**Output 3:** Knowledge and skills on waste management across key stakeholders involved in environmental and waste management related matters (city hall, ministry of interior, ministry of environment, ministry of health, community groups etc.) strengthened.

**Output 4:** Local communities in Bata sensitized on best environmental management practices.

Under the project, the entities overseeing solid waste management will be provided with two key management tools (recycling guidelines and a communication strategy), nearly 150 stakeholders from the sectors involved will be trained on environmental and waste management matters, including 100 people from local communities.

## CONTRIBUTION TO SDGs

The project will contribute to SDGs 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17

