# The trajectory of a shared learning journey

Cooperation on Simplified Sewerage System, Waste Management Services and Public Health in the Municipality of Viana, Luanda, Angola



A Partnership between the IBSA Fund (India, Brazil & South Africa), the Government of Angola and UNICEF









#### **ACRONYMS**

**ANR** | National Waste Management Agency (Agência Nacional de Resíduos)

AJOCAMARC | Waste Pickers Youth Association of Angola (Associação dos Jovens Catadores de Materiais Recicláveis de Angola)

**CAGECE** | Ceará State Water and Sewage Company (Companhia de Água e Esgoto do Estado de Ceará)

**CENFOC** | Civil Construction Professional Training Center (Centro de formação profissional de construção Civil)

**CINFOTEC** | Integrated Technology Training Center (Centro integrado de formação tecnológica)

**DECSU** | Cooperative for Sustainable Community Development (Cooperativa para o Desenvolvimento Comunitário Sustentável)

**DNEA** | National Directorate of Environmental Education

**DRSAI** | Diseases related to inadequate environmental sanitation

**EPAL** | Luanda Water Company (Empresa de Águas de Luanda)

**ENSTLCE** | National Strategy for Total Sanitation Led by Communities and Schools (Estratégia Nacional do Saneamento Total Liderado pelas Comunidades e Escolas)

**ESAROUNICEF** | Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (Escritório Regional do UNICEF para a África Oriental e Austral)

**FUNASA** | National Health Foundation (Fundação Nacional de Saúde)

**ISWM** | Integrated Solid Waste Management (Gestão Integrada de Resíduos Sólidos)

IBSA | India, Brazil, South Africa

**IGME** | UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

**INE** | National Statistics Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estatística)

**INEFOP** | National Institute for Employment and Professional Training (Instituto Nacional de Emprego e Formação Professional)

**INGA** | National Institute for Environmental Management

(Instituto Nacional de Gestão Ambiental)

IMENHA | School for Water Management and Environmental Protection (Instituto Médio De Gestão De Águas e Preservação Ambiental)

JMP | Joint Monitoring Programme

**SDG** | Sustainable Development Goals

STLC | Community-Led Total Sanitation (Saneamento Total Liderado pela Comunidade)

**UCAN** | Catholic University of Angola (Universidade Católica de Angola)

**UNICEF** | United Nations Children's Fund

**UNOSSC** | United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**UTGSL** | Technical Unit for Sanitation Management of Luanda (Unidade Técnica de Gestão de Saneamento de Luanda)

**WASH** | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



#### Introduction

This document forms part of the Trilateral South-South Cooperation (TSSC) initiative entitled "Improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services in the Municipality of Viana". The project is situated in the context of introducing alternative technologies of simplified sanitation<sup>1</sup> and integrated solid waste management (ISWM) in Angola.

This is the second article of a series that seeks to discuss and systematise lessons learned of the ongoing cooperation between the IBSA Fund (India, Brazil & South Africa), the Government of Angola and UNICEF, which also counts on the collaboration of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).<sup>2</sup>

Access to drinking water and sanitation represents a human right recognised by the United Nations in 2010. By guaranteeing this right, one also contributes to ensuring

other rights, including promoting health, life quality, social wellbeing and reduced inequalities.

The inequalities associated with access to Water. Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) have a negative social and sanitary impact, especially on the lives of children. The objective of this TSSC project is to address this issue by promoting the exchange of experiences and transfer of technical know-how. building on the experience of Brazil about simplified sewage systems and ISWM, including factors such as environmental education, community participation and promotion of public health while considering the particularities of the local context in Angola.

### 1. The Angolan context

Between 2012 and 2020, the Angolan population increased by 127%. In the same period, basic sanitation coverage in the country increased by 1% only, with a coverage of 65.4% in 2012 and 66.4% in 2020 and with public investment of less than 1% of the Gross Domestic Product (UNICEF, 2023³). The slow growth in coverage of basic sanitation services is one of the main challenges the country faces in WASH. In the case of the peri-urban areas of

#### TRILATERAL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

South-South Cooperation is a development cooperation modality where two or more developing countries pursue individual or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, resources, and technical know-how and through (inter-)regional collective actions.

Trilateral South-South
Cooperation (TSSC) brings
together developing countries,
developed countries and
International Organisations
to share knowledge and
implement initiatives with
common development goals.
TSSC builds on shared
governance among different
actors and identifiable
comparative advantages.

https://unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/

The IBSA facility for poverty and hunger alleviation (IBSA Fund) was established jointly by India, Brazil and South Africa in March 2004 and became operational in 2006 to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to developing countries on a demand-driven basis as examples of best practices in combating poverty and hunger. **IBSA Fund-supported projects** help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities, as well as all other internationally agreed development goals.

https://www.ibsa-trilateral.org/ibsa\_fund. html

<sup>1</sup> At the last meeting of the project management committee, held on September 1st in the city of Luanda, Angola, it was recommended and agreed to adjust the name of the initiative, changing the name from Simplified Condominium Sanitation to Simplified Sanitation, due to possible associations with luxury condominiums or residences inherent to the use of the term condominium in Angola.

<sup>2</sup> For further details on the development of this initiative, please refer to the first article of this series, entitled "The trajectory of a shared learning journey – Cooperation on SimplifiedSewerage System, Waste management Services and Public Health in the Municipality of Viana, Luanda, Angola". The article can be accessed here.

<sup>3</sup> Bottleneck Analysis of the WASH Sector in Angola.pdf (2023 unicef.org)

Luanda, thousands of families live in conditions of low access to water, unimproved sanitation facilities or even practice open defecation. Furthermore, there is a low level of understanding among the population with regards to the transmission of diseases related to sanitation and hygiene (JMP 2023<sup>4</sup>).

Limited sanitation services as well as inadequate hygiene practices and behaviours on the part of the population form the basis of the main causes and annual outbreaks of diseases related to inadequate environmental sanitation (DRSAI), such as arboviruses, cholera and diarrhoea. The under-five mortality rate in Angola is approximately 69 per 1,000 live births<sup>5</sup>. At least 15% of these deaths are due

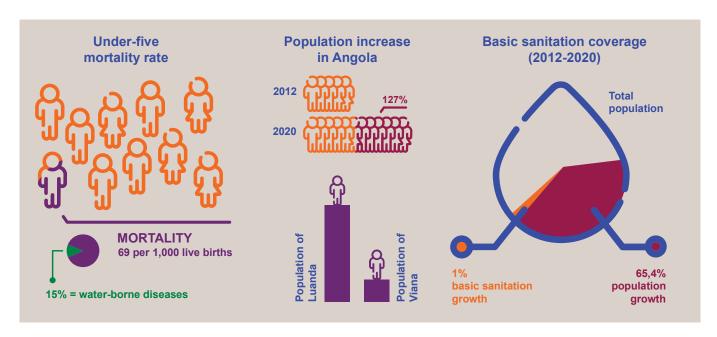
to water-borne diseases, such as diarrhoea and inadequate hygiene practices (INE, 2016).

The challenge of inadequate access to WASH services is mainly present in the periurban area of the municipality of Viana, on the outskirts of Luanda. Viana has the highest population density in the country, corresponding to around 23% of Luanda's total population. The main WASH challenges of this municipality include:

- Inadequate treatment of community sewage in lowincome areas;
- Inadequate waste management in low-income areas;
- Compromised community health in the aforementioned areas; and
- 4. Intermittent access to drinking water.

The Government of Angola has implemented several policies,

programs and strategies as a way of responding to the challenges faced by the WASH sector throughout the country. The Government of Angola has been working with UNICEF since 2008 to implement the program to eliminate open defecation through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (STLC) approach, implemented in the provinces of Cunene, Huila, Bié and Moxico between 2008-2015. For now, this program is only implemented in the province of Bié. Moreover, the National Strategy for Total Sanitation Led by Communities and Schools (ENSTLCE) was developed in 2018 and approved in 2019. Whereas this strategy foresees the expansion of the approach throughout the country, with the involvement of all actors in the WASH, implementation is currently hampered by the lack of Government funding.



<sup>4</sup> https://washdata.org/reports/ jmp-2023-wash-households

<sup>5</sup> IGME (2023), Child Mortality rate. Available at: https://childmortality.org/data/ Angola



#### 2. The project

Brazil is recognised for its advanced regulatory framework and urban WASH policy, including infrastructure, management services, planning and integrated solid waste management. Angola, on the other hand, has been strengthening its governance mechanisms to develop simplified sewage systems combined with community engagement. The dialogue between Brazil and Angola, mediated by UNICEF, was established to share knowledge, experiences and technical know-how in these areas, including technologies and governance systems.

The TSSC initiative between the IBSA Fund, the government of Angola, and UNICEF is designed around essential components of technical and strategic cooperation with three Brazilian institutions, namely the National Health Foundation (FUNASA), the Ceará State Water and Sewage Company (CAGECE), and the Ceará State Department for Cities, with overall coordination of the **Brazilian Cooperation Agency** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Intending to promote exchanges of experience and transfer of knowledge and technologies, the project adds to the aforementioned efforts to improve access to water, sanitation, hygiene, and integrated solid waste management while promoting a circular economy in the municipality of Viana. In general terms, these efforts aim to improve the quality of community life and public health in lowincome peri-urban settlements.

#### 2.1 Project structure

The project is implemented in line with four overarching pillars:

#### Simplified sewage system

A simplified sewage system is a sanitation option that allows for implementation in unplanned and densely populated lowincome communities and serves as an alternative for peri-urban areas in developing countries. The simplified sewage system provides savings of up to 65% compared to the conventional sewage system due to the smaller extensions and depth of the collection network and the design of decentralised secondary micro-treatment systems.

#### Solid waste management

Adequate solid waste management entails re-use of materials that would otherwise be discarded as a way of generating income through local entrepreneurship. In line with this perspective, the initiative also contributes to:

- reducing the amount of solid waste sent to landfills and the emission of greenhouse gases;
- · reducing food contamination;
- generating employment and income for families living in socio-economic vulnerabilities;
- reducing the proliferation of vectors and diseases (from mosquitoes and rats), such as dengue, yellow fever, Zika, Chikungunya and leptospirosis; and
- increasing the population's overall quality of life.

Furthermore, it helps prevent soil and water contamination and contributes to maintaining water supply and sewage treatment networks.

#### **Environmental education**

**Environmental education** promotes awareness of the importance of nature and the environment. The scope of environmental education covers various issues such as climate change, biodiversity, pollution, resource conservation and sustainable development. The project includes courses that target different audiences, such as members of the Angolan government and young people in situations of social vulnerability. For young people, the content combines environmental awareness with developing skills to obtain employment opportunities in the labour





market. Environmental education can contribute to changing habits and help transform the situation on Earth while providing a better quality of life for the people and families involved.

#### **Community participation**

In addition to appropriate technology, community participation is a fundamental component of this project. The community is engaged in the entire process, and decisions are

taken collectively. Community members receive training on simplified sanitation, integrated solid waste management, public health, environmental education, and hygiene. Meetings are also organised between the community and the local government to review project implementation progress and for joint future planning.

Community engagement contributes to the build-up of and strengthened relationships as

well as communication activities and interactions that promote results at the community level. Built on trust, communication and collaboration, community participation focuses on the needs and expectations of community members. Effective engagement processes can build trust in communities, ensure efficient decision-making, and result in better implementation of services. Community participation increases visibility and understanding of issues and empowers people to have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

#### **Public health**

Basic sanitation services are determining and conditioning factors for public health as well as a matter of national interest, as they directly impact the lives of citizens. The activities

encompassing these services are essential for the prevention of diseases, reduction of child mortality, improvements in education and employability rates, expansion of tourism, and socioeconomic development, as well as for the promotion of dignity, well-being and mental health.

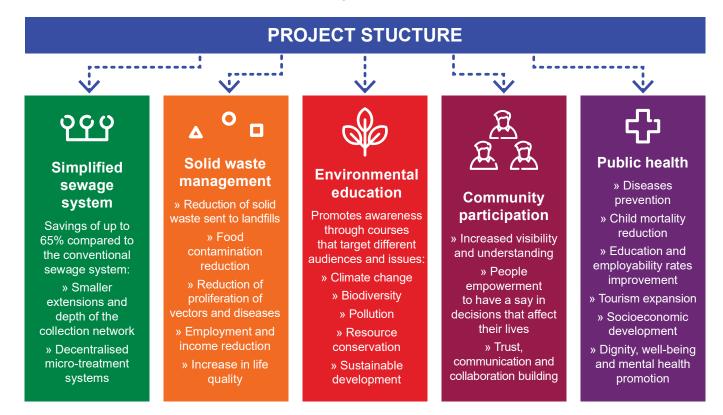
The inadequate disposal of solid waste and the lack of water treatment and sanitation increase contact with numerous agents that are dangerous to health. Diseases with higher incidences due to exposure to unsafe sanitation services are leptospirosis, bacterial dysentery, schistosomiasis, typhoid fever, and cholera. This fact must be understood to its full extent, and communities must be equipped with knowledge about their

interaction with the environment and public health.

Environmental monitoring is fundamental for environmental management, as it provides data that can inform the planning and implementation of measures that limit, mitigate and/or avoid environmental and social deterioration.

Available data makes it easier to involve civil society and the community to reinforce their commitment to this matter.

Data is also required for the elaboration of reports that, in turn, inform the design of Government programs and regulations. Furthermore, data is critical for the development of information and for the monitoring of plans and projects, as well as to verify compliance with regulations.



### 3. Key progress so far: 2022-23

The first year of implementation featured two important parallel and complementary processes. On the one hand, there was crucial political mobilisation, which was critical to ensure formal commitments to and overall progress of the project. On the other hand, there was training for trainers. The training sessions were implemented from April to June 2023 and organised around the topics of

simplified sewage, integrated solid waste management, community engagement and environmental education. In total, 72 Angolan professionals from 14 different institutions were trained. These trainees will be an integral part of the project implementation throughout the second year of the project.

The training was essential not only to increase knowledge among participants but also to create alignment between Angolan counterparts and

their respective responsibilities in implementing the basic sanitation policies of the country. Furthermore, the training and materials developed and shared during the training process will serve not only to implement the project itself but also as a reference for the more extensive process of moving forward with the WASH agenda at the national level.

In addition to training and political mobilisation, there were

#### **TIMELINE OF COOPERATION** Summary of key events 2022 2023 **Project document** approved by IBSA Elaboration os baseline Board survey 2020 **Project document** Elaboration of technical Joint elaboration of signed by the 2021 government of Angola concept note and Training of trainers submission to IBSA and UNICEF Approved funding from Elaboration of documents Fund **IBSA Fund** Joint elaboration of for the bidding process COVID-19 the annual work plan Virtual scoping mission on civil engineering and to Angola Technical mission to community engagement 2019 Angola Joint elaboration of Knowledge sharing with Study visit to Brazil results matrix and countries of Southern and Steering committee from Angola (Ceará & project document Eastern Africa meeting Brasília) Submission of project Technical mission to Joint development of Planning for scoping document to IBSA Angola roadmap and terms of mission to Angola from Board reference for capacity Brazil Meeting of project development management commitee **2018 Techincal evaluation** Formal request for of the first year of cooperation from the implementation and Government of Angola planning for the second to the Government of year Brazil

also important advances at the technical level. These include:

- identification and delimitation of the area of implementation of the simplified sewage system;
- preparation of technical reference material;
- elaboration of the necessary documentation for the bidding process on civil and social engineering services;
- 4) development of baseline survey<sup>6</sup>.

In addition, the project also served as inspiration for

a Trilateral South-South Cooperation initiative between the Government of Brazil, UNICEF and seven other countries7 of the Eastern and Southern Africa region. In November 2022, representatives from these seven countries participated in a study visit to Brazil to exchange knowledge, learn about Brazil's experience in the area of WASH, and explore possible areas of technical cooperation. The Angolan Government and UNICEF Angola were invited to participate to share insights from the Angola-IBSA initiative. As shown in the graph below, the simplified sewage system and

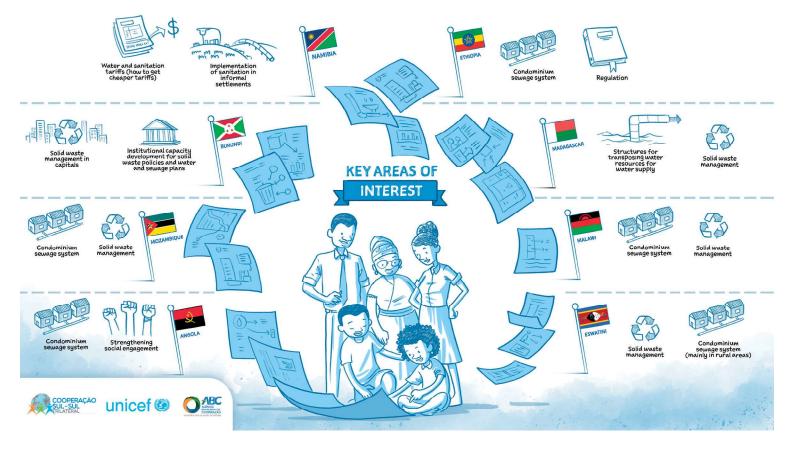
7 Malawi, Burundi, Namibia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Eswatini

solid waste management were two of the areas that generated the most interest among the delegations.

## 4. Implementation: Step by step

### A. Sector-wide capacity development

The Government of Angola, together with UNICEF and other actors, identified the need to strengthen the Angolan sectoral capacity in WASH. One of the measures taken to address this challenge was the creation of focus groups for learning and knowledge exchange, in which various sector actors participated. These groups were



<sup>6</sup> The baseline survey will be used to generate knowledge about the progress, results and impact of the simplified sanitation pilot project. The household survey will help identify existing sanitation systems and provide qualitative data on trust, knowledge, habits and potential barriers to behavioral changes.



organised around the following themes: i) Simplified sewage engineering; ii) Integrated solid waste management, iii) Legal and institutional arrangements for waste management; and iv) Environmental education and public health.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, 72 professionals from 14 national institutions<sup>8</sup> were trained.

8 1. The Municipal Administration of Viana, 2. National Environmental Management Institute (INGA), 3. National Directorate of Environmental Education (DNEA), 4. National Waste Management Agency (ANR), 5. Technical Unit for Sanitation Management of Luanda (UTGSL), 6. National Institute of Employment and Professional Training (INEFOP) 7. Civil Construction Professional Training Center (CENFOC), 8. School for Water Management and Environmental Protection(IMENHA), 9. Waste Pickers Youth Association of Angola (AJOCAMARC),

The entities received training and technical support from technical counterparts of the Brazilian Government and with the support of the School of Public Management of the State of Ceará. The Ceará State Department for Cities provided training in the area of integrated waste management, while FUNASA led and co-led the training sessions on public health and environmental education. CAGECE coordinated the sessions on sanitation and simplified engineering,

community engagement and environmental education.

## B. Planning of training and development of teaching material

The Government of Angola and the Government of Brazil, together with UNICEF, identified, reviewed and contextualised existing technical materials in the areas of public health, hygiene and environmental education, solid waste management and recovery, and simplified sanitation engineering. Furthermore, there was a review of the legal frameworks in Angola and Brazil, to ensure that

Kudisanza environmental association,
 Integrated Technology Training Center (CINFOTEC),
 People in Need (NGO),
 Catholic University of Angola (UCAN) and
 Luanda Water Company (EPAL).

the training and materials were anchored in existing legislation.

Appropriate teaching materials for each technical area and training module were also developed. Throughout the process, stakeholders were allowed to address concerns and suggest improving the modules.

This participatory process ensured that the materials were directed to the needs of the institutions while complementing already existing material and knowledge.

### C. Implementation of training modules

The project is focused on strengthening the capacities of

all entities involved. The training covers four areas: i) Simplified sanitation engineering, ii)
Environmental education and public health, iii) Community engagement, and iv) Waste management and recovery. The main objective is to train trainers and multipliers on topics relevant to the project so that they can replicate the training with the project's target population and expand their knowledge.

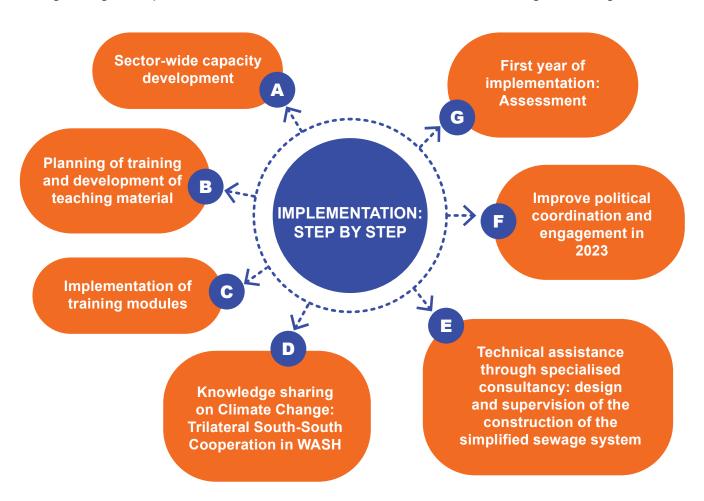
The training sessions were organised in a hybrid format for three months, in close collaboration with Brazilian specialists who shared knowledge, techniques and strategies while seeking to establish connections between

the contexts of Brazil and Angola.

Managers and technicians from non-governmental organizations, groups of waste pickers, representatives of government institutions, training centres, academia, and other institutions linked to the WASH sector participated in the training.

## D. Knowledge sharing on Climate Change: Trilateral South-South Cooperation in WASH

Climate change is expected to impact the water cycle significantly, aggravating old problems and bringing new challenges. The region of the



"The Simplified Sanitation and Waste Management project can be an integrative solution for peri-urban areas. In joining forces with various Government initiatives by improving sanitation, it can contribute to achieving the goals of the sector in the short, medium and long term. Having trained 72 people from different national institutions on various subjects that relate to Simplified Sanitation represents an important step forward. Following this training, Angolan technicians are better equipped to implement different socio-environmental technologies and to approach Integrated Solid Waste Management, the technology of a simplified sewage system, public health and hygiene in a different way in Angola".

Andrew Trevett, Deputy Representante, UNICEF Angola

municipality of Viana has a series of social, environmental and institutional characteristics that make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As many poor and vulnerable people live in precarious settlements, this social vulnerability is compounded by the environmental vulnerability resulting from the process of peri-urban expansion, which in turn brings negative implications for already precarious urban water and sanitation infrastructure. In



this sense, public actors involved in water and sanitation management face an enormous challenge: overcoming present vulnerabilities and preventing and/or adapting to future ones.

The mobilisation of society around the topic "climate change" is still somewhat weak. Other more pressing issues, such as access to basic services and housing, tend to put climate change to the sidelines of the priorities of many social movements. In this context, the role of public actors is central. However, public policies and actions that seek to reduce or control vulnerable situations in urban areas are still incipient.

However, by implementing practices of integrated wastewater-, solid waste-, and environmental management, ensuring the sustainability of current systems, and promoting access to adequate sanitation

services, one can advance in essential ways to protect against and mitigate possible negative impacts of climate change.

#### E. Technical assistance through specialised consultancy: design and supervision of the construction of the simplified sewage system

The Government of Angola and UNICEF have initiated the necessary steps to identify a suitable company to provide technical support to the project in terms of project design and supervision of the construction work. There have been ongoing efforts to identify areas where water supply is available and define areas where the service is intermittent. This technical research was developed with guidance from technical counterparts in Brazil in real-time.

After defining the area, a provisional topographic mapping was carried out. Water supply networks, river basins and available local services were also mapped out. In sequence, the pre-project was developed, followed by the outline of the terms of reference for elaborating the engineering project design.

## F. Improve political coordination and engagement

With regards to advocacy, coordination and political engagement, UNICEF continues to work with Angolan entities in five critical dimensions of WASH sector alignment: i) knowledge sharing, ii) ownership, iii) accountability/mutual responsibility, iv) monitoring, and

v) results-based management.

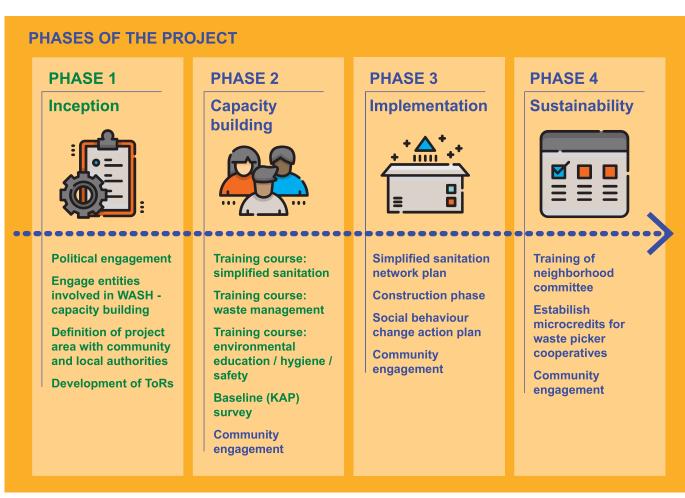
## G. First year of implementation: Assessment

As a final activity of the first year of implementation, a technical mission by Brazilian entities to Angola was organized.

The mission represented a strategic milestone for the initiative, serving as a moment

to take stock of the first year of implementation and agree on next steps in line with the work plan for the second year. The purpose of the mission was to technically support and monitor the project after the implementation of phase 1 and 2, while preparing for phase 3.

In addition to the technical collaboration, the mission also entailed the second meeting of the project management committee, which is the formal project management body made up of decision-making representatives of all project stakeholders.



## Statements – 2023 training sessions

Suzeth Manuel, a waste picker at the DECSU cooperative, states that "despite being part of a cooperative, I did not have a broad conceptual understanding of environmental management". She adds, "thanks to this training, I am learning new things, and I will pass this knowledge on to my colleagues".

Fernando Lourenço, a student of Economics and Health Management at the Catholic University of Angola, highlighted that "the training has been a unique and very fruitful experience with very pertinent topics, given that many diseases come from the lack of basic sanitation and the poor condition of the environment".

"As waste picker, I learned how to promote waste management work within the scope of recovery, adequate treatment and disposal. I will take this knowledge and apply it to the community where my cooperative works because they really need this knowledge there" says Rebeca Bento, waste picker from the COLIMPA cooperative.











#### **Lessons Learned**

- I. The project implementation has shown that Angola faces a significant challenge concerning integration between actors. Precise definitions of roles and responsibilities between different actors and sectors are lacking. It is thus essential for Angola to move towards an integrated approach in the sector and strengthen public policies through inter-institutional and inter-municipal strategies and actions.
- II. Simplified urban sanitation is a new approach in Angola. It requires continued processes of mobilisation and capacity building at different levels and with multiple counterparts, including at the political and community levels. These processes take time and may require an extension in terms of project timelines, especially in the case of a pilot project.
- III. The participatory implementation model in all phases of the project,

- including throughout the project design, has proven to be an essential factor for the success of this initiative. Participation is an essential ingredient for promoting ownership and engagement among counterparts, as well as ensuring that activities are adapted to the local reality and implemented in a contextualised and continuous manner.
- IV. The training phase showed that collective participation encouraged the design of educational materials aligned with local particularities. It also proved positive to have a diverse group participating jointly in these moments, as it provided for the exchange of ideas and alignment between counterparts, in line with the principle of horizontality.
- V. The long and in-depth capacity development process implemented in 2023 showed that these training endeavours can be organised remotely. It is thus clear that South-South Cooperation projects can be

- effectively implemented in a hybrid manner, combining virtual engagement and exchanges with on-site visits. This model has allowed for a more efficient and sustainable project design, ecologically and financially.
- VI. The sustainability of the project is directly linked to structural and structuring actions. In this sense, it is essential to guarantee continuous environmental education processes, social communication and awareness-raising campaigns, using materials and communication techniques with simplified and easy-to-understand language. Before starting any civil engineering work, it is crucial to raise awareness within the community in partnership with strategic stakeholders that already work in the territory and know the local reality, such as schools, churches and community organisations, among others.

"As the sector lead, the Ministry of the Environment is primarily responsible for the overall policy, strategy, and leadership. The partnership for Simplified Sanitation is part of a more significant Government strategy for the sector through South-South Cooperation and Innovation. Angola needs to continue this critical cooperation to strengthen the sector."

Paula Cristina Francisco
Coelho, State Secretary for
Climate Action and Sustainable
Development, Ministry of
the Environment, Angola

#### **Next steps**

While the implementation of the first year of the project focused on political mobilisation, technical capacity development and the identification of the location for the implementation of the simplified sewage system, the second year will be concentrated on implementation at the local level. The next steps will, therefore, entail the following:

Engage community
 coordinators and leaders of
 the selected neighbourhood
 to present the project and
 mobilise them to engage in
 the implementation.

- Train young people from the Catholic University of Angola (UCAN) in applying the baseline survey.
- Develop and implement a training plan with waste picker associations.
- Mobilize and engage the larger community around the project in collaboration with community leaders.
- 5) Launch the bidding process and contract company for the execution and oversight of the construction work.

The process described above will be led by Angolan counterparts, with technical support from Brazilian entities.

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