

# Solid Waste Management in Luanda Province

ANGOLA

URBAN DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL FACILITY (UDTF)

#GLOBALGATEWAY

MARCH 2025

## Project rationale

The EU aims to support Angola in promoting the creation of formalised jobs, the development of the private sector and entrepreneurship, while also fostering the circular economy and addressing one of the most significant health and environmental issues in the Luanda Province area: the presence of uncollected solid waste in extensive parts of the Province.

In this effort, the UDTF was tasked to support the EU Delegation with a comprehensive diagnostic study, assessing the current context and engaging stakeholders to propose a series of prioritised actions for a new programme to focus on improving solid waste management, and adopting a circular economy model in Luanda's municipalities.

## Background

The EU aims to support Angola in promoting the creation of formalised jobs, the development of the private sector and entrepreneurship, while also fostering the circular economy and addressing one of the most significant health and environmental issues in the Luanda Province area: the presence of uncollected solid waste in extensive parts of the Province.

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## Findings and recommendations

**4 key challenges** were identified in Luanda's existing SWM system:

- **Waste accumulation in areas inaccessible to waste collection trucks**
- **Low recycling rate**
- **Financial unsustainability of the system**
- **Informality and resulting vulnerability of many waste actors**

1 - Africa Rise Analytics Report, 2021.

### THEMATIC AREA:

- **Solid Waste Management**



### FUNDED BY:

European Union



### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

National Waste Agency (NWA), Luanda, Municipalities of Luanda Province



### TOTAL BUDGET OF THE PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY UDTF:

EUR 25 million  
(100% EU-funded)



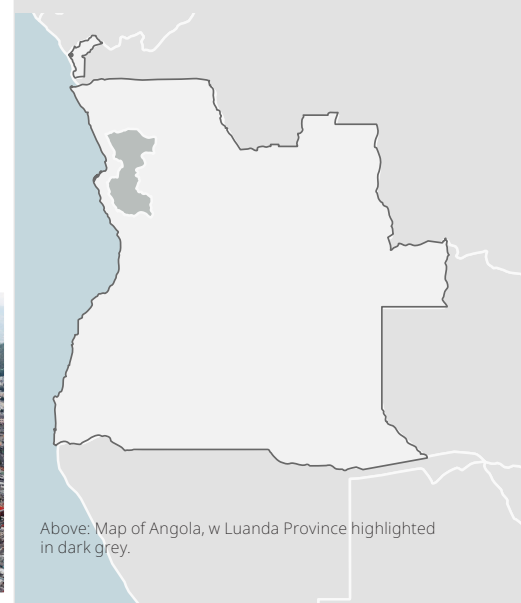
### DURATION OF THE UDTF ASSIGNMENT:

March - May 2023



### PROJECT REGION:

Luanda Province



Above: Map of Angola, w Luanda Province highlighted in dark grey.



## ■ Inadequate leadership and coordination, and a lack of clear control structure in the waste sector

The SWM sector suffers from weak enforcement and inadequate collaboration, resulting in poor municipal performance. The National Waste Agency (NWA) is responsible for waste policy implementation, while the provincial government is expected to manage local infrastructure such as landfills and transfer stations. Municipalities oversee waste collection, street cleaning, and the administration of waste service taxes.

### Recommendations:

- Develop a unified vision for SWM regulation, supervision, and operations with clearly defined stakeholder roles and responsibilities.
- Enhance capacity in waste reduction, planning and financial management.

## ■ Inappropriate design of solid waste management operations

Municipalities face challenges in designing systems that meet the diverse needs of urban areas, often relying on informal waste pickers to manage inaccessible zones. Additionally, the lack of dedicated supervision frequently leads to substandard services.

### Recommendations:

- Support municipalities in developing data-driven, comprehensive SWM operational plans to optimise efficiency.
- Explore different management models, such as contracting multiple operators for various urban zones and engaging SMEs for hard-to-reach areas.
- Establish robust supervision mechanisms and implement performance-based contracts to enhance accountability and service quality.

## ■ Insufficient financial resources and autonomy at the municipal level

Municipalities lack financial autonomy, technical expertise, and effective revenue collection, with tax systems not directly benefiting local authorities

### Recommendations:

- Improve fee collection and financial management capacity at the municipal level.
- Integrate informal operators, cooperatives, and SMEs into SWM operations and formal systems by enhancing working conditions and offering credits and microcredits.
- Focus on developing projects that attract private investment and optimise facilities management.

## Lessons learned

Addressing the challenges of Luanda's SWM required a multi-faceted approach that combines traditional methods with more innovative solutions. Based on the identified challenges and root causes, the new EU-funded programme on SWM for Luanda's province will focus on three key areas:

### Financial Support and Incentives

Establishing a credit line, fiscal measures, and the execution of local pilot projects to enable associations, cooperatives, SMEs, with a particular focus on women-led entities, to launch operations.

### Private Sector Participation

Creating a facility to bridge viability gap funding and attract private investment in waste infrastructure projects.

### Operational improvements

Supporting municipalities in optimising waste collection systems, expanding service coverage, and integrating informal waste actors into the formal sector.