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PARTICIPATORY MASTERPLANNING

Project: Corinto/El Realejo (Nicaragua) – Cologne (Germany) Reorganising waste management

The project aimed to reorganise municipal waste management in the towns of Corinto and El Realejo. As a concrete contribution, a sorting facility for the collection of recyclables was planned and installed, and waste storage at the landfill was reorganised. In addition, a basis was to be created for making the organisation and processes of the existing local waste management system more efficient and effective at an overarching level.

The intended reorganisation was based on an extensive participatory process. In about twenty consultations, workshops and meetings, representatives of the local administration as well as of target groups, civil society, the church and citizens were informed and involved. A waste management masterplan was then developed. The consultations and on-site visits provided the needed information on waste generation and composition, and on the current status of waste management processes.

Using the masterplan, it was then possible to revise the management of the landfill and to plan the sorting of recyclables more precisely. At the same time, the masterplan also provided a basis for further developing municipal waste management beyond the project. Accordingly, based on the masterplan the separate collection of organic and inorganic waste was introduced in Corinto.

Thanks to the participatory process, acceptance among the target groups was high and further actors could be brought on board as multipliers. Informal waste pickers were integrated into the project. The church and civil society at the project location subsequently became involved in environmental education. This involved raising local citizens' awareness of waste separation, sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection.

Success factors

- Masterplanning and participatory procedures began before the project started. This meant that activities for the sorting plant could begin early on in the funding period.
- Relevant waste management information, which the municipality in the project country does not always have, was obtained through the consultations.
- Through participation, the perspectives and needs of many stakeholders were taken into account, and acceptance and ownership were created.
- Thanks to the masterplanning, further positive effects in municipal waste management are being promoted at the project location.

Practical advice

1. Identify target groups and stakeholders whose acceptance of the project is important for its success, or who possess relevant information.
2. Identify stakeholders who could be potential multipliers or cooperation partners.
3. Hold workshops or consultations with representatives of the identified stakeholders.
4. Use consultations and on-site visits to compile relevant waste management information.
5. Try to conduct masterplanning and participatory processes before the start of the project. It may be possible to apply for upstream funding, for instance through the Service Agency's Fund for Small-Scale Municipal Development Cooperation Projects.

ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen

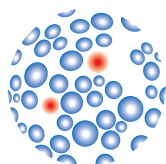
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