

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	10080
Project Name:	AIM-WELL: Algeria Integrated Management of Waste Energy at the Local Level
Countr(ies):	Algeria
Implementing Agency:	UNDP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

AIM-WELL: Algeria Integrated Management of Waste Energy at the Local Level

Country

Algeria

GEF ID

10080

Implementing Agency

UNDP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy & UNDP

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

To promote an integrated and comprehensive solid waste management by fostering technology deployment, dissemination, and transfer in collaboration with private sector

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

3/15/2023

Agency Approval

10/31/2023

Implementation Start

10/31/2023

First Disbursement

3/1/2024

Expected MTR

5/1/2026

MTR Submission

4/30/2026

Actual MTR

4/29/2026

Expected Completion

10/31/2028

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

E-4. The AIMWELL Project is progressing at a slow pace:

- there was a 7-month delay from 31 October 2023 to 28 May 2024 to get the Project started. A part of this delay was caused by the Government of Algeria (GoA) decision to dissolve the Canadian partnership that was

originally defined in the ProDoc, in favour of a transparent process to determine the most appropriate technology for the valorization of HSW and poultry waste. This necessitated the need for a feasibility study which was not part of the original Project design (Para 0);

- awareness raising campaigns on integrated waste management and sociological surveys were completed for residents of Constantine and Sétif (Kasr El Abtal) in October 2025 (Para 50);
- there was the completion of 2 municipal Master Plans for integrated solid waste management in Constantine and Sétif (Kasr El Abtal) in November 2025 (Para 51);
- a technical and economic feasibility study to finalize the technology selection and benchmarking of technologies for the recovery and valorization of household and similar waste (HSW) and poultry manure in Constantine and Kasr El Abtal, respectively, was completed in December 2025. The feasibility studies are currently under review by an Intersectoral Scientific and Technical Committee to support decision-making and technical validation of feasibility outcomes;
- the recruiting of a private-public partnership (PPP) consultant is expected to be completed in April 2026, who is expected to work with KOCKS Engineers, the feasibility study consultants, and prepare documents for the call for interest for a private sector entity to join with the PPP with business arrangements under a PPP between SOPTE and a private sector firm specializing in waste management (Para 52);
- the GEF Secretariat approved the AIMWELL Project's NIM with Project support in February 2026.

Additional findings can be found on Para 111 and Tables A and 6.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagements by the AIMWELL Project have been guided by the approved Stakeholder Engagement Plan that aligns with the Project's broader implementation strategy. This has been implemented by the Project including the establishment of dialogue and collaboration with:

- AND (under MEQL) concerning overall raising of public awareness of integrated waste management and valorization of waste, and provision of assistance to local authorities in integrated waste management in accordance with Ministry guidelines;
- SOPTE (a subsidiary of Divindus under MI), most importantly concerning the PPP arrangements and the construction of the sorting facility and biomethanation plant in Constantine, and the chicken waste facility in Kasr EL Abtal;
- MADRP with regards to quality and sale of fertilizer from chicken waste from Kasr El Abtal facility;
- MERE on the sale of renewable electricity from the biomethanation plant;
- Wilayas of Constantine and Sétif under MICLT (including municipal administrations and community representatives of El Khroub of Constantine and Kasr El Abtal of Sétif), all of whom had conducted a series of awareness campaigns and structured field consultations to secure feedback from affected and interested citizens, foster an environment of local ownership, and validate planned activities. This was based on detailed documentation of the stakeholder engagement process, offering detailed insights into acceptance levels, behavioral patterns, and institutional alignment;

- public waste collection entities (EPICs): EPIC PROPCO and EPIC PROPREC of Constantine, and EPIC EGUVAM and EPIC EPCA of El Khroub who were engaged in the collection of waste as well as raising public awareness of the sorting aspects of integrated waste management;
- NGOs who were engaged in dialogues with residents of Constantine and Sétif wilayas to raise awareness of the benefits of integrated waste management.

While progress in stakeholder engagement has been satisfactory, delays were encountered in the launch of feasibility study tenders by SOPTE, primarily due to the technical complexity of the detailed specifications, the limited market knowledge of innovative waste management solutions, and slow responses to these specifications. The effectiveness of the MEQL and SOPTE partnerships has been leveraged to help mitigate these delays and strengthened community support that allowed for more effective integration of social and gender considerations into the feasibility design and planning of the waste facilities. In addition, public awareness campaigns have raised the level of community participation that should contribute positively to buy-in of and stakeholder ownership on integrated waste management efforts by the Project, contributing to long-term sustainability. In conclusion, the Project is laying important foundations for meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement, successfully building trust, ownership, and institutional coordination in the early stages of implementation. Moving forward, the Project's ability to sustain stakeholder confidence and legitimacy will depend on its capacity to strengthen safeguards and grievance mechanisms, and demonstrate responsiveness to community concerns alongside technical progress. Thus far, stakeholder participation is rated as satisfactory.

C. Gender Equality

A review of the AIMWELL ProDoc also reveals that gender equality and empowering women were taken seriously. The gender analysis resulted in the following recommendations regarding gender dimensions of the Project:

- Spouses (both men and women) have a central and shared role in waste management at the household level, and should be encouraged to participate in upstream sorting in response to communications materials to households;
- Women must be involved in productive activities in the solid waste recovery and transformation processes, and their working conditions improved. This translates into placing favourable conditions on women's access to waste-derived products transformed by the Project, jobs created by the Project, and access to incentives to income generating businesses;
- Effective participation of entrepreneurial women in integrated solid waste chain to develop a circular economy locally;
- Women should be encouraged and provided with the means to participate in Project activities, including sensitization and training sessions for the integrated solid waste management, and sharing their experiences to reduce their work burden and if possible, increase their independence

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Despite the low levels of Project activity, the PMU has made efforts to implement actions required from the Gender Action Plan (GAP). The Project has made significant progress in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment by integrating priorities systematically with its interventions. The Project's main cross-cutting issues are related to these efforts that directly contribute to enhancing the Project's

environmental and resilience outcomes. This included the undertaking of data collection and analysis on gender dimensions that informed the integration of gender considerations into planning processes and stakeholder engagement mechanisms. These efforts ensured that gender was not treated as an add-on, but rather as a cross-cutting dimension influencing both design and implementation.

This gender-responsive approach contributed directly to strengthening environmental outcomes and community resilience. For example, community field surveys of Outcome 1 revealed that women are responsible for more than 80% of household waste sorting in Constantine. As a result, the Project positioned women as central actors in waste separation, composting, and recycling initiatives. This was an acknowledgement of the role of women in integrated waste management that placed several women in leadership roles to foster more community-based, inclusive, and effective environmental practices at the household level. Another example is Indicator 11, where professional technical training on the integrated solid waste management approaches and technologies from local and central institutions was achieved with 155 persons. While the EoP target was 15% women for participation in training, the actual participation was 29% women, exceeding the EoP target at the MTR. Gender figures on job creation based on gender equality in the waste transformation plants in Constantine and Kasr El Abtal for Outcome 2 will not be available until the plants are completed.

The Project is also monitoring any incidences of gender-based violence (GBV) associated with Project activities. To date, there have been no incidents or reports of GBV. The Project continues to apply gender-sensitive safeguards to mitigate potential GBV risks and to guarantee a safe and inclusive environment for all participants, demonstrating the Project's commitment to upholding social safeguards while reinforcing the synergies between gender equality, environmental sustainability, and resilience outcomes.

It is noteworthy that several persons interviewed during the field mission were women in prominent positions: the NPD of the AIMWELL Project; the lead person from AND; the environmental officer for SOPTE; the head of the Environment Department of Constantine Wilaya and her two female colleagues; the lead environmental officer for the municipality of El Khroub; and the lead environmental officer for the Sétif environmental department and the municipality of Kasr El Abtal. This is a positive aspect of the Project, as Project activities at all levels included women and youth. Youth, as well as other hard-to-reach audience sectors such as children and students, have been addressed in awareness raising with CSOs with the presence of several specialized CSOs who brought a scientific dimension to these public awareness campaigns.

Regarding other cross-cutting issues, the Project did not have any actions on the "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) agenda, which would have included those with disabilities. This raises the question as to whether there are opportunities in waste management for the disabled, even though gender has been addressed. Unfortunately, the Project does not have any data on disabled persons in Constantine or Kasr El Abtal, as most "left behind populations" are the least visible in national statistics. Any meaningful interventions for disabled persons would have to first engage in timeconsuming primary data collection of disabled persons. While the Project has conducted satisfactory efforts towards gender equality, addressing the principles of LNOB is needed to improve its contribution to resilience-building of communities through integrated waste management. In particular, the capacity rebuilding of communities needs to be conducted in such a manner that gender norms and disabled persons are recognized and evaluated on a case-by-case basis for specific actions for mitigation or enhancement. These can then be aggregated together to form an overall evaluation on how effective capacities (that are gender or LNOB-sensitive) are being built. As a result, implementation of gender mainstreaming thus far is rated as satisfactory, and implementation of the LNOB agenda is unsatisfactory.

D. Knowledge Management

Para 92 (5th and 6th bullets) mention the wilayas and EPICs that are involved with raising awareness of residents of Constantine and Sétif (particularly Kasr El Abtal). The PMU has implemented its KM and communication strategy, with particular emphasis on laying the groundwork for systematic learning and dissemination for these communities. Comprehensive baseline data was collected through field surveys in Constantine and El Khroub that shaped the refinement of participatory models, identifying where institutional support is strongest and where resistance may emerge.

Public visibility of the Project's milestones was ensured through coverage in national and regional media outlets, including APS, El Moudjahid, and Horizons, all of which reported on the official launch workshop and subsequent activities such as the development of municipal waste management master plans (Indicator 5). Professional outreach was strengthened through a series of LinkedIn articles authored by Nassima Benzitouni of UNDP Algeria, which presented the Project's objectives and early achievements to a wider technical and professional audience. These communication efforts helped to raise awareness of waste-to-circular economy approaches and began to build national recognition of the Project's pilot interventions.

The communications process has already highlighted that data from field surveys show women are responsible for more than 80% of household waste sorting, a finding that has had a direct impact on the design of community engagement models resulting in women as key actors (Paras 76-77). Similarly, lessons drawn from stakeholder concerns and governance bottlenecks, particularly those associated with SOPTE, have informed revisions to the sequencing of activities and strengthened risk mitigation measures. These communications not only serve as learning, but influences the manner in which the Project is being implemented.

A standalone knowledge sharing platform has not been launched. Thus far, knowledge management has been largely internal or limited to awareness-raising through media, with cross-institutional dissemination yet to be realized. The Project intends to move forward with structured dissemination once physical infrastructure becomes operational, which is anticipated in 2026. At that stage, the documentation of economic, social, and technical lessons will be shared more broadly with institutional partners and the public. These are expected to become central mechanisms for supporting the replication and scale-up objectives of Component 3.

In conclusion, the Project's efforts on KM and communication is laying a robust foundation by embedding evidence-based learning within safeguards, rigorously documenting stakeholder engagement, and ensuring early visibility through media and professional channels. Importantly, internal learning loops are already influencing operational choices, particularly in relation to genderresponsive engagement and risk management. At the same time, the absence of a formal KM platform and the limited cross-institutional dissemination remain critical gaps that need to be addressed. Accelerating the development of structured KM tools and expanding the scope of dissemination will be essential for the Project to fully achieve its scale-up and replication objectives of Component 3. As a result, communication has been rated as satisfactory

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	1888320	714558		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	1132995	8603514		

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		357,279	0	
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)		4,301,757	0	
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	1888320	357,279	0	
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	1132995	4,301,757	0	
Anticipated start year of accounting		2035	2023	
Duration of accounting			5	

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
Biomass		2.00	0.00	

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	250	371,250	0	
Male	250	378,750	0	
Total	500	750,000	0	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
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Private Sector	SOPTE	Equity	Investment mobilized	10,000,000.00	
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	250,000.00	35,403.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10,000,000.00	6,242,495.00
Total Co-financing				20,250,000.00	6,277,898.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	High or Substantial	High or Substantial	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

There were 10 risks identified under the AIMWELL ProDoc registered under the UNDP QUANTUM Risk Log including:

- moderate risk of the COVID-19 pandemic slowing down Project implementation due to restricted mobility of persons and inability to carryout technology transfer because of closed borders;
- moderate risk of PPP disintegration or undercapitalized sorting and waste transformation that would delay project implementation;
- moderate risk that there is a lack of technical expertise for the development and implementation of the waste processing facilities;
- moderate social/cultural risk of the Project perpetuating the current low representation of women in the construction sector;
- substantial environmental risk of transformation of solid wastes will generate effluents and require electricity for operation. In the case where solid waste will be combusted, waste transformation will generate solid wastes in the form of bottom ash and stack emissions that pollute the air;
- high socio-economic risk of the potential loss of economic activities by operators (mostly informal) in the treatment of channels of current solid waste;
- substantial health and safety risks for persons handling hazardous waste and organic waste, notably workers handling poultry waste as poultry waste is a disease vector;
- high technical risk in the construction and operation of solid waste processing units;
- high social risk of locating the current informal poultry waste management site in Kasr El Abtal into a unit to a formal poultry waste and fertilizer facility that would require current occupants to leave the site; and
- moderate social risk of people who currently benefit economically from existing landfills are not eligible to take up new roles or be relocated to do so.

All these risks have mitigation and management measures.

Risks identified in the SESP slightly differ from those identified in the UNDP QUANTUM Risk Log, including:

- support to a fundamental transformation of the household waste management supply chain and practices in Constantine brings issues of labour management, occupational health and safety, construction site management, emergency preparedness and response (among others);
- support to Poultry Waste Management in Sétif brings a wide range of environmental issues such as odours, nitrate contamination of ground and surface water, flies and mosquitoes; and social issues including potential physical and/or economic displacement, and impacts on cultural heritage;
- promotion of a new solid waste management model could affect the livelihoods of waste pickers in Algeria;
- vulnerability of the project (and its outcomes) to the effects of climate change;
- technical assistance could create outcomes that harm people or the environment; and
- gender discriminations could be reproduced by the project.

These SESP risks are addressed through a description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Prefix	Title
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	GEF10080_UNDP6163_FY26_MTR_UNDP_Algeria_ClimateChange_FSP
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	MTR Algeria (GEF 10080 / UNDP 6163)
Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	10080 - Algeria AIM WELL (6163) - Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) - Annex P
Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	PIMS 6163 Algeria AIM WELL - SESP - Annex E_25Nov2020 final