

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10373
Project Name:	Supporting a Green Economy - Decoupling Hazardous Waste Generation from Economic Growth in Rwanda
Countr(ies):	Rwanda
Implementing Agency:	UNDP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Supporting a Green Economy - Decoupling Hazardous Waste Generation from Economic Growth in Rwanda

Country

Rwanda

GEF ID

10373

Implementing Agency

UNDP

Executing Entity

Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 3rd PIR

Objective

The project aims to support the Government of Rwanda and its private and public sector in decoupling hazardous waste generation and harmful releases from economic growth by enhancing the introduction of the 4R approach (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle and Recovery) in priority industries and economic sectors, while at the same time enhancing private sector led national waste treatment capacity to ensure the sound management of wastes.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

6,898,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

2,678,552.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

11/24/2021

Agency Approval

5/30/2022

Implementation Start 5/30/2022	First Disbursement 8/26/2022
Expected MTR 11/30/2024	Actual MTR 12/23/2024
Expected Completion 5/30/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The project has made commendable progress in establishing a robust foundation for the sustainable management of hazardous waste in Rwanda. As of June 2025, it has exceeded its beneficiary target, reaching over 2.36 million individuals (52.1% women), and created 350 green jobs, primarily in plastic waste collection. Institutional and technical capacities have been significantly strengthened, with over 4,000 stakeholders trained across sectors. Key regulatory frameworks, including ministerial orders on e-waste and hazardous waste management, are in advanced stages of approval. The project has collected and treated nearly 2,000 metric tons of hazardous waste, including PBDEs, mercury, and medical waste. Preparatory work for the interim storage facility is complete, with construction set to begin in July 2025. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for plastics is almost operational, and the e-waste EPR is under development. Awareness campaigns and valorization competitions have enhanced public engagement and innovation. While some delays occurred in implementing pilot interventions targeted at private sector and finalizing approval of regulatory documents, adaptive management and strong stakeholder coordination have kept the project on track. Overall, the project is well-positioned to achieve its objectives from 2026 with increased technical expertise in core missing areas.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

(1) Delays in Approval of Regulatory documents: While several regulatory instruments (e.g., Ministerial Orders on e-waste and hazardous waste) were drafted and validated, their final approval have been delayed due to extended review processes. . (2) Technical Expertise Gaps: Some technical activities, such as remediation of contaminated sites and development of private sector-led waste management models, required specialized expertise not readily available. This delayed implementation of pilot activities for cleaner production and safer alternatives, and thereby limiting the project's ability to kickstart ensure private sector capacity development for long-term hazardous waste management in Rwanda. . (3) Data System Enhancement Lag: Upgrades to the hazardous waste database system were slower than planned, partly due to coordination with national IT authorities and procurement scheduling.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout the implementation of the project, stakeholders including local communities, private sector operators, government institutions, and civil society organizations were meaningfully engaged in various stages of project activities.

Community members, participated in awareness campaigns and training sessions focusing on safe chemical handling, storage, and reporting mechanisms.

Different stakeholders supported identification, mobilization, and safe consolidation of obsolete and hazardous chemicals from schools, health centers, and industries during chemical collection and awareness campaigns. The key stakeholders that supported included but not limited to local authorities, Educationalists, Schools, and community representatives

In the development of key technical studies such as the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), interim storage facility design, and feasibility studies, stakeholders were actively consulted through public meetings, validation workshops, and technical working groups. Their input informed risk assessments, site selection, mitigation planning, and design decisions.

These processes strictly followed Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles, ensuring that stakeholder views were fully incorporated and respected. Additionally, government stakeholders such as REB, MOE, MINAGRI, MININFRA, MOH, Local government, MINICOM and MINEDUC among others provided institutional guidance and technical input, while private sector and development partners contributed to technical reviews and co-financing discussions.

D. Gender Equality

Employment and Income Generation

The project significantly contributes to employment creation and income generation, particularly for women in the waste value chain. Notably, green jobs have been created in waste collection, sorting, recycling, and composting. For example, at Enviroserve Rwanda Green Park, a leading e-waste and plastic waste recycling facility, the workforce is predominantly female—185 women compared to 116 men—demonstrating the project's strong impact on women's economic empowerment. Overall, 350 new green jobs were created in plastic waste collection during the reporting period, with 60% of the beneficiaries being women.

Building women's leadership capacities

To enhance women's leadership and participation in the chemicals and waste management sector, the project supported women-led cooperatives engaged in the waste value chain. Capacity-building workshops were organized for education professionals, lab technicians, health officials, environmental practitioners, waste management companies, waste handlers, customs, customs clearing agents, local government authority, cooperatives among other stakeholders focusing on environmental protection, gender mainstreaming with emphasis on the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste. As a result, 4009 different stakeholders (including 46.9% women and 53.2% men) have been trained, equipping them with knowledge and skills for safer waste handling in laboratories and learning environments. These initiatives not only build technical capacity but also contribute to long-term leadership development among women in environmental management.

By leveraging the unique perspectives and contributions of women, the project empowers women leading to more sustainable and inclusive waste management practices. This inclusive approach has increased community buy-in and participation, ensuring more effective implementation and long-term success of environmental initiatives.

The integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into the waste management project directly contributed to stronger environmental impact and greater community resilience in the following ways:

Strengthened Community Engagement and Behavior Change

- Empowered women served as effective agents of change in promoting waste prevention and segregation, reduction of single-use plastics, and eco-friendly habits within their households and communities.
- Through women-led awareness campaigns and peer education, the project achieved greater community participation in environmental activities compared to past periods, contributing to cleaner, healthier surroundings.

E. Knowledge Management

The Project has made substantial progress in implementing its Knowledge Management (KM) approach. The project adopted a strategic KM plan developed in 2023, which guides how knowledge is captured, organized, shared, and applied across the project's life cycle, as follows:

Capturing and Documenting Knowledge: The project has systematically gathered both tacit and explicit knowledge from different interventions through field surveys, stakeholder interviews, and documentation of best practices. Interventions such as chemical collections, trainings, plastic waste collection among others have been monitored and assessed to generate lessons on sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste management with emphasis on reduction of hazardous waste generation. The project has documented these practices to support continuous learning and replication.

To ensure that knowledge reaches the right audiences, the project has used a variety of tools and channels, including but not limited to:

- Community sensitization meetings and campaigns.
- Messages from media platform.
- Training sessions for different stakeholders: governments, non-government and civil society organizations.
- Printed materials, reports, and visual documentation for local and national stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration: The KM strategy emphasizes multi-stakeholder engagement. Knowledge is shared and co-developed through collaboration between different stakeholders. This participatory approach strengthened ownership, relevance, and the practical application of knowledge for better decision-making and policy alignment.

Sustainability of Knowledge Use: The project incorporated KM into its sustainability strategy by proposing tools for continuous monitoring and learning. This enables stakeholders to make informed adjustments even after the project ends.

The Project has actively implemented its approved Knowledge Management approach, integrating knowledge capture, documentation, dissemination, and collaboration into its core activities. This has enhanced evidence-based decision making, stakeholder engagement, and the replicability of project practices, thereby supporting the project's environmental, social, and institutional sustainability.

The KM of the project is being implemented in alignment with the comprehensive REMA Communications Strategy. This involves awareness raising through:

- REMA website and social media platforms
- Media engagement
- Outreach campaigns
- Social media influencers' platforms
- Specific trainings for specific stakeholders.

Annexes: links related to the workshop events

1) https://twitter.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1627663686801276933?t=bRTgToaPboJKiVmeiQAYxg&s=08

2) https://twitter.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1628401767271604226?t=sa7d98_irkMQOsocL1yQcg&s=09

3) https://twitter.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1628729273489010696?t=_R_QMZ-F4REkR3s9-xp91w&s=09

4) https://twitter.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1630232807342755840?t=5SMxHome5EHGrfE5Go7Lrg&s=09

Files for 2024-2025

REMA/Project website:

- REMA hosts two-day workshop to inspire youth in waste valorization
https://www.rema.gov.rw/info/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=849&cHash=d2c7e8afe168189a33374b6dee2f307a
- Rwanda Launches Nationwide Initiative to Collect and Safely Dispose of Hazardous Chemical Waste from Schools
https://www.rema.gov.rw/info/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=946&cHash=42bb9bc852d2cdf295e96dd2b3be7019
- Schools Across Rwanda Commend REMA for Safe Disposal of Hazardous Chemical Waste
https://www.rema.gov.rw/info/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=947&cHash=64eef30ccf6bff2301c9e8dbf9ebb60b

Social media:

- The government of Rwanda, through REMA has begun collecting hazardous waste from schools
https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1881963151106920755
- https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1881965753886544087
- https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1861445091279147114
- https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1861445094798237888
- https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1861445096903708815
- https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1943635242943680868
- https://x.com/REMA_Rwanda/status/1943643991569736097

Media Coverage:

- How Rwanda is handling tonnes of expired lab chemicals in schools
<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/article/26623/news/education/how-rwanda-is-handling-tonnes-of-expired-lab-chemicals-in-schools>
- Collection of chemical waste from schools to begin in Western Province
<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/article/27035/news/environment/collection-of-chemical-waste-from-schools-to-begin-in-western-province>
- Tonnes of 'expired laboratory chemicals' in Rwandan schools require proper disposal
<https://rwandainspirer.com/tonnes-of-expired-laboratory-chemicals-in-rwandan-schools-require-proper-disposal/>
- Safe Collection of Expired Chemicals from Schools <https://depotkalisimbi.org/services/safe-collection-of-expired-chemicals-from-schools/>

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	

Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kigali	-1.94995	30.05885	202,061

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document	
Document Category M and E Document	Title 2025-GEF-PIR-PIMS6482-GEFID10373