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# WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES IN REGIONS, GEORGIA

ICMA - Quarterly Report

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# **Waste Management Technologies in Regions, Georgia**

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Table of Contents

Abbreviations.....4

Program Background .....5

Assumptions, Problems and Barriers.....6

Status of Activities by Components .....7

    Component 1: Waste Collection and Recycling Systems .....7

    Component 2: Private Sector-led Recycling .....8

    Developing Capacity of Local Partner Organization.....9

## **Abbreviations**

GHG	greenhouse gas
ICMA	International City/County Management Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WMTR	Waste Management Technologies in Regions

## Program Background

USAID awarded the Waste Management Technologies in Regions Program (WMTR) to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) on March 18, 2014, under Cooperative Agreement AID 114-LA-14-00001. ICMA is implementing WMTR in partnership with a local sub-recipient, the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN). WMTR contributes to the following USAID monitoring and evaluation framework objectives and results:

- Strategy Development Objective 2: Inclusive and sustainable growth.
- Intermediate Result 2.3 More responsible management and development of Georgia's natural endowments.
- Intermediate Result 2.3.3 Waste management improved.

The goal of WMTR is to provide professional waste management technical assistance to support waste management system development and recycling in two regions of Georgia — Kakheti and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara. Project activities promote greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and sequestration by developing the waste management sector, including waste collection, recycling, and public awareness. Specifically, this project enables GHG mitigation and sequestration within the waste sector by enabling the recycling business environment in targeted regions and municipalities to:

- Improve waste collection systems
- Minimize pollution of natural resources from landfills by closing down old, illegal landfills and dumpsites
- Enhance public awareness of waste management issues and promote public participation in the decision-making and design processes of new waste management systems.

WMTR activities combine various components into a comprehensive structure that focuses on technical assistance and capacity/institution building of integrated waste management systems and recycling/composting in two regions of Georgia — Kakheti and Adjara AR. WMTR has four main components:

- Component 1: Waste Collection and Recycling Systems
- Component 2: Private Sector-Led Recycling
- Component 3: Waste Management Strategy and Tariff Policy
- Component 4: Communication and Outreach

WMTR also implements crosscutting activities that support the four components above and promote local governance. The crosscutting activities include, among others, empowerment of youth and women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, and gender mainstreaming.

This Quarterly Report covers the period from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 until December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, within the USAID Fiscal Year 2018.

## Assumptions, Problems and Barriers

WMTR contended with the following assumptions, problems, and barriers during the reporting period:

1. Lack of coordination among donor agencies working in the waste management sector;
2. Lack of communication among state institutions responsible for waste management in Georgia;
3. Lack of capacity at the municipal level for addressing waste management issues;
4. Lack of financial resources allocated in municipal budgets for waste management;
5. Municipalities' lack of technique and equipment (trucks, bins, etc.) required for waste collection and recycling;
6. Lack of local expertise in waste management;
7. Weak recycling sector – limited number of recycling companies with limited capacity, resources, and a problem with obtaining raw materials
8. The context of the broader socio-economic situation in the country;
9. The public's lack of awareness when it comes to integrated waste management issues like waste separation, recycling, tariff issues, etc.

To address and mitigate the effects these problems and barriers have on the program, WMTR works closely with all tiers of government and stakeholders on capacity building and has been using an intensive communication, outreach and awareness campaign to promote best practices in waste management and recycling systems. In particular:

- (3) The WMTR team supported municipalities in project target regions to develop municipal waste management plans, which will help them to improve their waste management systems and comply with the requirements of national legislation;
- (4, 5) The WMTR team introduced waste separation (paper/plastic) system in the self-governing city of Telavi. Program placed 36 waste bins for separated waste collection in one of the districts of the city;
- (6) The WMTR team used international expertise to support the MoENRP in developing a *Technical Regulation on the Design, Construction and Operation of Incinerators*;
- (7) The WMTR team supported the MoENRP to develop a concept of an extended producer's responsibility (EPR) scheme for beverage producers. The EPR will create a mechanism to provide recyclable materials to recycling companies and create a demand for the sector;
- (9) The WMTR team has conducted a very intensive awareness raising campaign through competitions, TV programs, Facebook campaigns, etc. to increase the public's awareness of integrated waste management issues.

## Status of Activities by Component

### Component 1: Waste Collection and Recycling Systems

#### In-Kind Activity Agreement on Optimization of Waste Management System in Telavi City

Following the arrival of the waste truck donated by Republic Services in Georgia in early January, the WMTR team has been working closely with Telavi City to evaluate options to adapt the truck's mechanisms for use in Telavi's waste collection system. Since the typical residential waste containers utilized in the United States are significantly smaller and lighter than the communal containers utilized in Telavi, the truck's loading mechanisms needed to be reconfigured before it could be fully integrated into the Telavi system.



*2010 Kenworth Rear Loader Truck*

The WMTR team and Telavi City evaluated several options for integrating the truck that included configuring the truck to service smaller containers or conduct periodic waste pick up in remote areas. After evaluating the feasibility and cost of all options, Telavi elected to retrofit the truck with a new cart tipper mechanism that is compatible with the standard communal waste bins utilized in Telavi. This option allows the city to get the most out of the truck and provide a degree of flexibility in its usage.



*Adapted loading mechanism installed in December 2017*

In June, Telavi City issued a tender for retrofitting the loading mechanism and identified a mechanic. All costs associated with retrofitting the equipment were covered by Telavi City and used to partially fulfill the cost share commitment of the IKAA.

The retrofitting work was completed in December. All other preparations necessary for integrating the donated truck have been previously put in place, including a new battery and a garage structure to keep it sheltered from the elements and extend the life of the equipment.



## Component 2: Private Sector-led Recycling

**Issue grants to support GHG mitigation, energy efficient technologies and source separation programs.**

### *In-Kind Activity Agreement for Zugo Ltd*

In April and May 2017, WMTR successfully concluded the In-Kind Activity Agreement (IKAA) issued to Zugo Ltd., one of the leading plastic bag recycling company in the country, located in Batumi. The company operates mainly in West Georgia and employs approximately 20 individuals in the field of recycling. Zugo Ltd. is mainly engaged in manufacturing of plastic items from primary raw materials. The company produces transparent disposable plastic bags used for prepackaging of catchweight products and assorted colored plastic bags bearing promotional and contact information of a client. Zugo Ltd. also holds an environmental impact permit issued by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection.

Zugo Ltd. identified the increased availability of plastic in the country and proposed purchasing additional assets (an extruder, a cutting and a granulating machines) and increasing its production. The objective of the IKAA was twofold; to support Zugo's expansion, and the same time, reduce the amounts of discarded plastic bags.



*USAID/Georgia Mission Director Douglas Ball visits Zugo Ltd. in December 2017.*

The activity exceeded expectations, closing with the company overfulfilling both production and sales indicators and surpassing their cost sharing commitment. As of December 2017, the company has recycled over 35,000 kg of plastic bags.

In December 2017, USAID/Georgia Mission Director Douglas Ball visited Zugo to observe and evaluate the successful operating of the enterprise.



## Capacity Development of the Local Partner Organization

According to the implementation mechanism outlined in the Cooperative Agreement during WMTR's fourth program year (Phase II), ICMA, as a prime international recipient, retains only a technical advisory function to support the local recipient, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN), which is responsible for all programmatic activities. CENN received the official award for WMTR Phase II from USAID and started its implementation in March 2017.

Throughout the entire WMTR Phase I, ICMA has been supporting CENN in the areas of human resources management, accounting and finance, contracting, and procurement with the clear objective to increase their capacity and ensure their readiness to become a prime-recipient of USAID awards. The two organizations collaborated to enhance CENN's administrative and management tools allowing it to successfully manage business processes and automate many back-office functions related to finances, planning, human resources, monitoring, inventory, service delivery etc.

One of the priorities of ICMA's year four implementation plan is to continue to enhance CENN's capacity.

During the most recent quarter, ICMA provided direct support to CENN through the joint development and revision of policies and procedures that will contribute to the successful implementation of their current award. These included the development of:

- code of ethics and conduct;
- conflict of interest policy and procedure;
- anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist finance policy and procedure;
- zero tolerance for fraud and corruption policy and procedure;
- gender equality and empowerment policy, and
- environmental and social policy

Through February, ICMA will continue to review CENN's operational manual and suggest appropriate changes to ensure its integrity and compliance with international standards and national legislation. ICMA will also assist with the development of annexes, forms, and questionnaires required for implementation of the policy documents already developed.