



Mapping Community Waste Management Interventions in Lagos

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Introduction

Effective waste management is pivotal to the socio-economic well-being of communities. Urban cities such as Lagos, which are the epicentre of surging economic and population growth, cannot rely on state investment and regulation alone to properly manage the estimated 10,000 tons of waste generated daily.

Both state and non-state organizations have an important role to play in building awareness and waste management infrastructure across the diverse communities of wildly varying incomes and topographies. The absence of an overarching architecture to define how organizations determine which communities to engage with and how to do so poses a significant challenge to the models of intervention and community participation that may be most effective in supporting stronger waste management practices in Lagos State.

This paper is part of the “Snap Survey” project. The project is an initiative of the Circular Business Platform, an organization developed with the support of the Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as well as public and private stakeholders; the goal is to promote circular business development in Lagos State by supporting public and private organizations that work with communities to develop responsible waste management practices. This project consists of the following:

1. **Database Building:** A comprehensive database, shareable on request, of initiators of community waste management engagements. Categorizing them by type, location and mode of operation.
2. **Position paper:** A short document outlining key themes identified in the survey;
3. **Amplifying Community:** Creating detailed public profiles of organizations working on community engagement activities.

Introduction

4. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** A longer qualitative study reviewing 3 very different types of community engagement and evaluating the responses from the community to each type. This report triangulates the findings from activities 1-3 which have been used to develop.
5. **A How-to Guide:** this manual has been designed to provide project initiators with the tools to plan, identify resources and partners to support implementation, set realistic targets for their engagements and encourage sharing about project learnings.

This paper is Part 2, a short paper which outlines themes identified in the database.



Methodology

At the beginning of this project, we were interested in identifying and mapping the various initiatives taking place within Lagos State. Given the absence of a central structure governing how organizations engage with communities, we expected and were prepared to recognize diversity. We developed and implemented an online survey designed to capture different categories of waste management interventions for communities across Lagos state.

A combination of closed and open-ended questions was used in the survey, which created enough flexibility to both categorize and explore themes through survey prompts.

The survey questions focused on the following:

- **Organizations carrying out the intervention,**
- **The locations of the interventions,**
- **The rationale for selection,**
- **Funding mechanisms and**
- **Specific challenges associated with carrying them out.**

The above categories were developed through a desktop review. For example, initiators of engagements were classified as:

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOS),**
- **Corporates, and**
- **Governments based on descriptions of existing interventions that were found online.**



Methodology

Open questions were created for issue areas in which the team had insufficient information to create categories, or where closed questions limited the quality of the information that could be gathered. The full survey is in the appendix of this report.

Survey respondents were drawn from the membership of industry associations that have responsible waste management mandates. These include the Lagos State Recycling Organization and the Food and Beverage Recycling Association in Nigeria. Other respondents were found from online searches including websites, news articles and social media posts. Once a database of target organizations was set up, the survey process was carried out over five weeks. 86 organizations were contacted for the survey, while a total of 52 qualified organizations completed it.

The survey mapped each initiator to the location of their work and the nature, size and scope of their intervention. Data from the completed surveys were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools to explore themes and surprises that emerged from the data set. The key themes that are reported in this document relate to:

- **Types of Initiators'**
- **Intervention Focus**
- **Intervention Audience**
- **Scope of interventions and years of experience**
- **Funding Scale and Source**
- **Challenges**

Our findings, presented in the following sections, form the basis for the selection of initiators that featured in long case report. The diversity of initiatives and approaches also helped us to address the practical issues that make up the how-to guide. While this report serves as the foundation for or the how-to guide, we have made recommendations of immediate practical steps that can be taken to enable organizations to deliver better outcomes in their community engagements.

Key Findings: Diversity and Convergence Engaging with Communities on Waste Management in Lagos



Type of Initiators

The focus area for this study was Lagos State. Unsurprisingly, the makeup of the survey respondents was predominantly from Lagos, with 73% based in Lagos state, and the rest dispersed across 10 states in Nigeria, as presented in Figure 2.

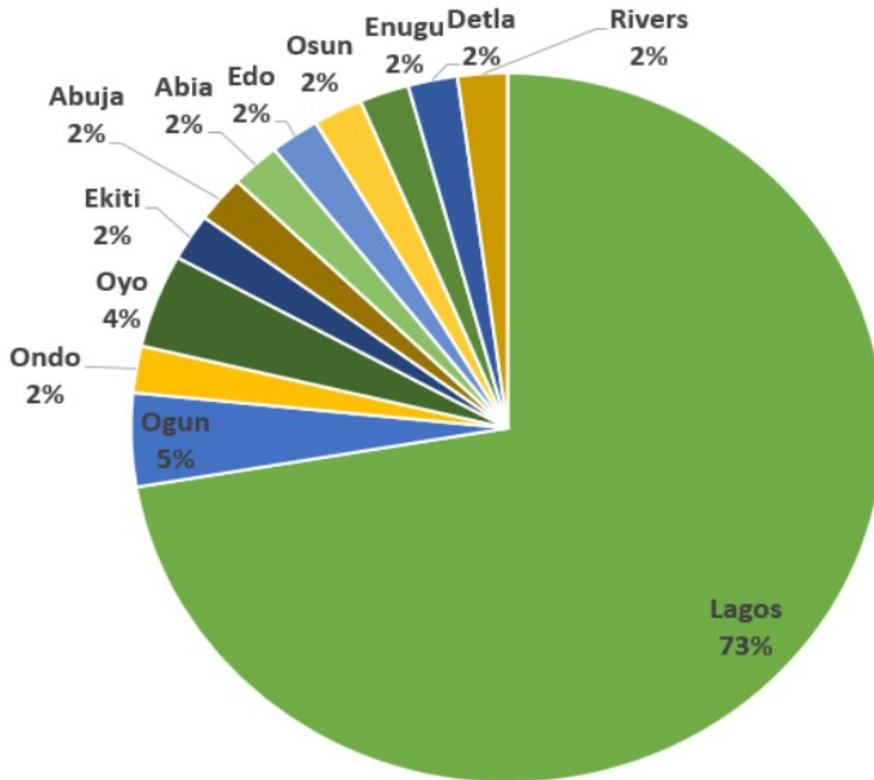


Figure 2 Distribution of Initiators Location

The data revealed that a large percentage of initiators are corporate entities, representing 65% of the respondents. NGOs represent just under a third of initiatives and the public sector just under one-tenth. (See Figure 1).

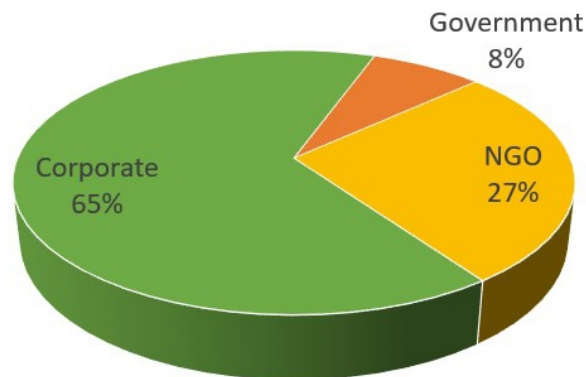


Figure 1: Categories of initiators



Type of Initiators

These results imply that business organizations are the most active in the drive towards repositioning waste management in communities through their interventions. A closer evaluation of the corporate respondents indicates that almost all the companies are directly involved in the waste management value chain. Some are producers intending to recover packaging waste into the process line to reduce cost and showcase their companies' sustainability compliance. Other respondents are waste recyclers, who are implementing engagement programmes to optimize the collection of recyclable material. This finding is significant because it implies that the motivation to invest in community engagement is not necessarily an altruistic one by, but one that may be directly tied to commercial goals. This is especially the case for private recycling companies that have a direct need for materials.

The relatively low proportion of government initiatives can be explained by the fact that only two agencies at the state level, LAWMA and LASEPA, have direct mandates to regulate waste in the state, so numerous publicly-led initiatives are not expected.



Intervention Focus

Interventions described by survey respondents fell into 6 categories:

1. Clean-up of waste from drainage, water bodies and streets
2. Sensitization of the host community to adverse effects of poor waste management.
3. Education and skills development for communities to support appropriate handling of waste
4. Introduction of incentives to motivate the collection of recyclable materials
5. Capacity development for potential recyclers
6. Young citizen education and mobilization

Nearly 9 out of 10 initiators reported deploying more than one type of intervention. Only 10% of interventions focused on recycler education and young citizen education (see Figure 3).

From all categories of initiators, incentive schemes were considered as a priority intervention. As the income derived from waste collection, especially at the informal level, is precarious, the need for incentives is likely linked to the importance of providing adequate compensation to motivate collection at the bottom of the pyramid and at the household level. In this respect, financial incentives are seen as a compelling and straightforward way to mobilise behaviour change.

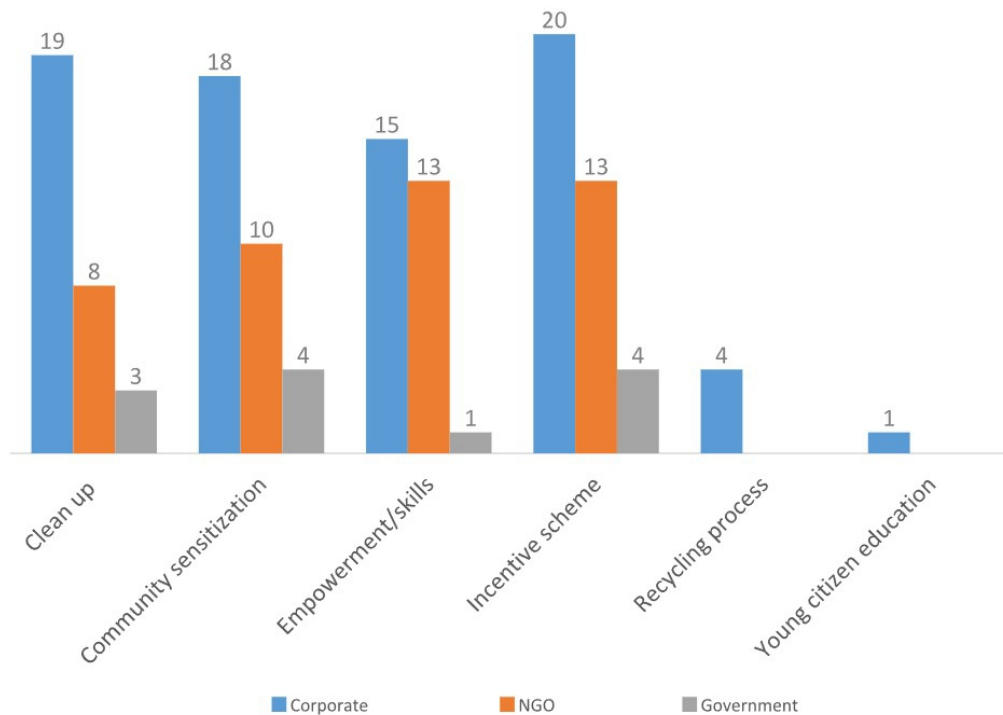


Figure 3: Comparison of type of waste management intervention by the initiators'



Intervention Audience

The target audience for interventions described by respondents included

1. Waste generators, which covers households, companies, schools and commercial centres;
2. Waste pickers,
3. Recyclers and
4. Youths.

Several respondents described the target of intervention as

5. The environment in general, suggesting that the physical environment rather than members of a community or group were the focal point of intervention.

The target audience of interventions varied concerning different categories of initiators. Government interventions focused mainly on waste generators, making up 60% of its targeted audience, while NGO interventions were more inclined towards the general environment (50% of interventions). On the other hand, corporate interventions were fairly distributed across the six identified audiences, with generators (35%) and general environmental (35%) taking up equal attention.

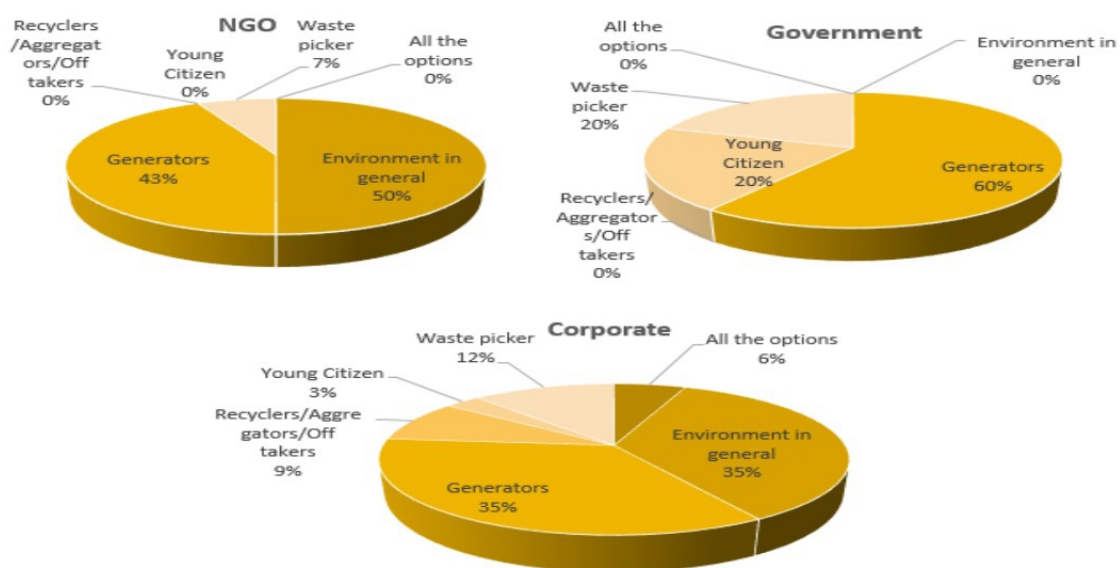


Figure 4: A comparison of waste management intervention targeted audience



Intervention Audience

It is notable that such a high percentage of respondents indicated that the environment, rather than an organisation or group, was a target audience. There are 3 possible explanations for this:

1. Respondents identified interdependencies between the state of the environment and target groups. In other words, they linked behaviour change within communities to pollution reduction in their environment.
2. Environmental impact, measured by the volume of materials collected, is a key success metric for interventions, which is necessary for organisations to highlight their achievements. We note that other types of metrics to measure behaviour change of individuals and groups are more difficult to deploy.
3. Engagements may not always be human-centred and may be too focused on the priorities of initiators carrying out engagements rather than the engagements themselves. The long cases will evaluate in more detail how the different explanations materialise; however, our view is that it is likely that there is no single explanation for why the general environment is so widely described as the target audience. We do believe that too much emphasis on the general environment may affect how deep behavioural change is addressed and may undermine the overall success of interventions.



Scope of Interventions and Years of Experience

The scope of interventions across federal, state and community/LGA by initiators was also evaluated. Figure 4 presents the distribution of waste interventions across the 3 tiers of governmental operation of the three categories of initiators, only the corporate initiators (3) have a national spread of their respective interventions, while all the NGO interventions except one were local community focused.

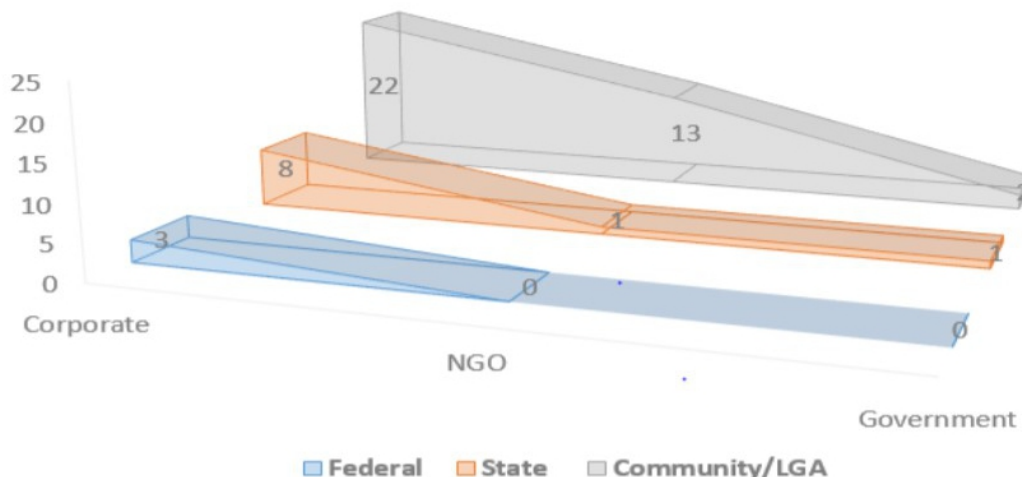


Figure 4: The scope of interventions across the three categories of initiators

The scope choice of corporate and NGO initiators may be influenced by the nature of the business, years of experience, funding scale and resource availability. All the initiators with the federal scope were observed to have business operations spread across the country and have operated for over five years.

Less experienced initiators across the three categories largely concentrated on priority local communities. This is outlined in Table 1, where thirty-three of these initiators have less than five years of experience in the execution of their respective interventions. In contrast to private organizations, the scope of government interventions was limited by its mandate, which is state-based.

| Years of operation | Corporate | NGO | Government |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|------------|
| Years of operation | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Years of operation | 19 | 7 | 2 |
| Years of operation | 10 | 7 | 2 |

Table 1: Years of operation of initiators



Funding Scale and Source

The funding scale per initiator across the three categories- (Corporate, NGO and government) provided important insights into the patterns of waste intervention. Figure 5 shows that 58% of NGOs often execute waste interventions that have budgets of 1 million naira or less. Corporations are more likely to have budgets of above 2 million naira.e. The small budgets available, combined with the broader view that financial incentives are needed to mobilise behaviour change, implies that existing funding structures are likely inadequate for deep, sustainable, or comprehensive forms of engagement.

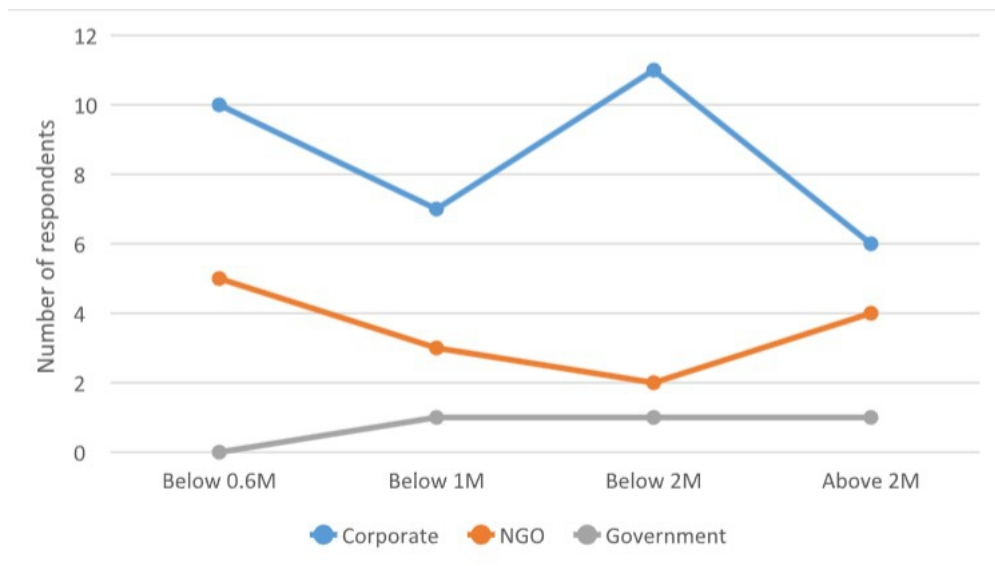


Figure 5: The Funding scale of waste management interventions

These findings are further substantiated by details related to the source of funds. Figure 6 indicates that 50% of all initiators relied on self-funding schemes to execute identified interventions. Of note is that corporate interventions, who are the major category of initiators with high influence on waste management, had sourced 65% of funds through company allocations.

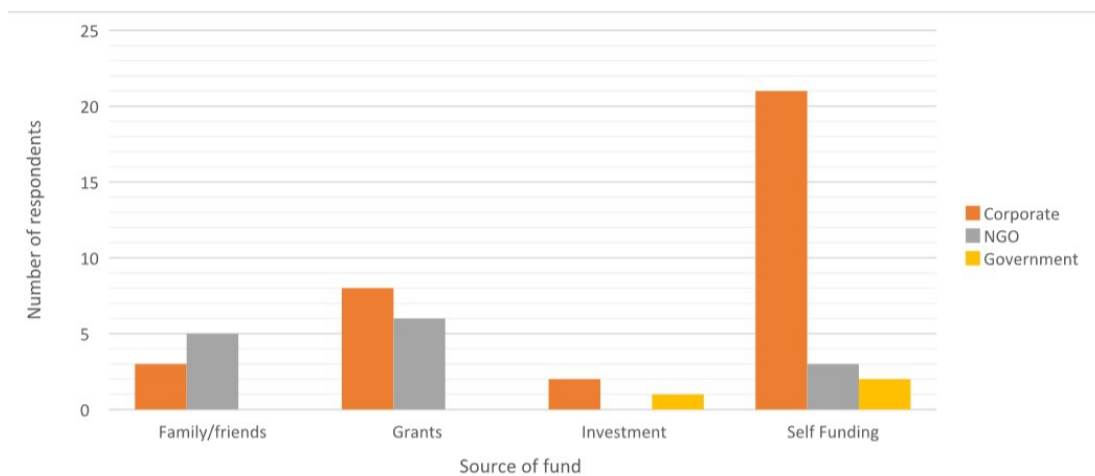


Figure 6: Sources of Funds for waste interventions



Funding Scale and Source

While it is not necessarily problematic that such a high proportion of corporate investment into community engagements is self-funded, there is a public interest dimension to engagements that may not always be compatible with private interests. This may affect the stability and orientation of funding, for example, by prioritising projects and metrics that are good for individual organisations rather than for the community. More work is needed to allocate common interest pools of funding to interventions to assure that funding for interventions is adequate, stable and holistic. Through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives, common pool facilities such as FBRA, and large-scale donor and multilateral plastic management projects, potential common interest structures are emerging, but they are not yet institutionalised. As these structures evolve, common pool investment in community engagement should be a priority.

Test of the relationship between initiators' parameters

For ascertaining if there is any statistical difference in the parameters of funding source, funding scale, target audience and scope of intervention across the categories of corporate, NGO and Government, the Chi-square statistical test was applied.

| Test Statistics ^b | Funding | Audience | Scope | Fund source |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------------|
| Chi-Square | .122 | 1.088 | 6.937 | 10.360 |
| df | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Asymp. Sig. | .941 | .580 | .031 | .006 |

Table 2: Test of similarity in the initiator's parameters



Test of the relationship between initiators' parameters

The result of the chi-square presented in Table 2 indicates that there are no statistical differences across the categories of initiators Corporate, NGO and Government regarding funding scale and the target audience with significant value $p > 0.05$. However, there is a significant statistical difference in the scope of intervention and funding source across the categories, with $p < 0.05$. This implies that the source of funds for initiators significantly differs despite having similarities in the audience and funding range.

While corporate and government interventions were funded using self-generated funds by initiators, the NGO's sources of funds were grants and family/friends' support. There are a couple of possible explanations for this:

1. Differences in organisation profile: i.e., NGOs may have fewer resources than corporates and governments and do not necessarily generate revenues from the waste value chain.
2. Some organisations are more skilled than others at accessing grants and external funding.

While we believe that organisational profile does determine funding sources, variations in funding size even within one category of initiator also suggest that organisational skill is also a factor. Given the absolute need to engage with communities in Lagos, a megacity with a population of over 20 million, with waste management infrastructure that accommodates a fraction of this and knowledge and attitudes towards the waste that are not oriented towards an individual or community responsibility, organisations carrying out engagements with communities must have all the tools and resources available to raise funds, design and deliver high impact intervention programmes. Setting up a grant and financing a database that notifies initiators of funding opportunities while providing support with preparing applications would be an important first step to improving access to funding for NGOs and corporates in particular.

Secondly, setting up a shared initiator database may also help organisations efficiently identify potential consortium partners. The database from the snap survey project may be used as a foundation for this activity.

| Challenges | Corporate | NGO | Government |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|------------|
| Funding and cost challenges | 11 | 9 | 0 |
| Logistics and transportation | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Education and Awareness | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Wrong Altitude and Apathy | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| Technical, lack of data and Policy | 6 | 6 | 0 |

Table 3: Challenges Faced by Initiators



Corporates and NGOs reported similar issues about the challenges faced with their respective interventions. Funding and attitudes of community members were reported as prominent challenges to the survival of the community waste interventions, as shown in Table 3.

Sustainable community interventions require substantial funding, and cannot be assumed to be commercially viable investments, even if there are commercial motivations for engaging with communities. Given the majority of respondents (51%), reported relying on self-funding mechanisms to support their respective interventions and the relatively high number of engagements with budgets of less than 2 million Naira, it is evident that more structured resources are needed to mobilise engagements. Per our observations in the preceding sections, we believe that a more structured approach to gathering financing opportunities and greater attention to the development of common-interest pools of funding would be the most productive avenues to pursue.

62% per cent of the respondents reported that communities had difficulties in enabling longer-term behavioural change. There was also some apathy identified in the acceptance of the interventions. Given the high number of respondents choosing the environment as the target audience, this strengthens our hypothesis that the design of some interventions may not be adequately human-centred. Furthermore, as behaviour change is an expensive and long-term activity that certainly exceeds budgets of 2 million Naira, our hypothesis that interventions are underfunded is also strengthened.

Another challenge that was reported was logistics and transportation. This included challenges of moving participants to and from intervention locations, transportation of waste collected that was cleared, and the movement of cleaning tools to and from intervention locations. We believe that strengthening communication and resource-pooling with the initiator community, including state organizations, could improve logistics challenges. However, some logistics challenges are also a function of the limited budgets of initiatives, which may not factor in the costs of logistics until a programme is underway. Again, additional support to initiators to support with project planning and fundraising would be needed.



Conclusions About Community Interventions in Lagos State

Community engagement centred on waste management by NGOs, corporates and the state of Lagos is extremely dynamic. While there is no centralised authority mandating organisations to carry out engagement activities or to do them in a specific way, a diverse set of organisations is actively involved in encouraging Lagosians to dispose of waste responsibly. This energy and diversity are nothing short of remarkable: our study involves over 50 distinct organisations spread across the state. Our analysis of the survey results points to six observations:

1. The high percentage of corporate respondents suggests there are commercial motivations to work with communities. The diversity of organisations identifying as “corporate” means these motivations are not yet well understood, but likely involve a mixture of regulatory and reputational pressure as well as a desire to build procurement channels for recycled material.
2. Effective community engagement involves more than one type of activity, and activities are interdependent. For example, sensitisation may be followed by skills development and the provision of infrastructure and incentives to dispose of and collect waste materials.
3. Some interventions may not be adequately human-centred insofar as they may be motivated by impact metrics or organisational goals that are not compatible with the needs and interests of the community. This may impact how communities perceive and accept interventions.
4. The predominance of self-funding interventions suggests that public interest needs may not be adequately protected, as purely private funding impacts the funding size, orientation and stability of projects. Common pool sources of funding could be used to channel larger volumes of funding that are targeted at behaviour change.
5. Interventions are underfunded, especially if behaviour change is needed. Supporting initiators to identify and prepare for funding opportunities would be a first step to improving access to larger pools of funding. Preparatory support could include human-centred programme design, support with consortium building, budgeting and a monitoring and evaluation framework.
6. Database development and management, to improve opportunities for resource-pooling and fundraising, may grow the size of interventions initiators can implement.

These themes and recommendations are further explored in the long cases and the how-to guide.



APPENDIX A



Short Case Survey Questions

1. What is the nature of your intervention and community engagement?

- (A) Clean-up
- (B) Community sensitization
- (C) Incentive scheme engagement
- (D) Empowerment/Skill development

2. How long have you been engaging communities on responsible waste management?

- (A) Less than 1 year
- (B) 1–5 years
- (C) 5 years-above

3. Which location (please indicate the community and state) do you engage in Nigeria?

- (A) Free text

4. Have you been able to replicate this same engagement in other communities?

- (A) Yes- If yes, how many other communities and which locations (please indicate the community and local government area)?
- (B) No

5. What challenges did you face/are you facing in engaging the community?

- (A) Free text

APPENDIX A

6. Was there prior research/survey done to determine the kind of intervention engagement category (by engagement category we mean community intervention) needed by the community you are engaging?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

7. What are the purpose/aims/objectives of your intervention engagement in the community?

- (A) Free text

8. What is your typical intervention scope?

- (A) Local/community level
- (B) State level
- (C) Federal level

9. Who are your main targets in the community?

- (A) Generators (community members)
- (B) Generators (businesses)
- (C) Waste pickers
- (D) Environment in general
- (E) All the options
- (F) Others (please specify)

10. Do you get grants, investment support, or self-fund for your engagements/projects in the communities? (Source of funding)

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Sometimes

11. What price range do your engagements cost?

- (A) Less than 100,000 naira
- (B) 100,000 to 500,000 naira
- (C) 500,000 and above naira
- (D) 600,000 to 2,000,000
- (E) Above 2,000,000



APPENDIX A

12. How would you measure the impact of your intervention? (Select all that apply)

- (A) Value chain addition (Inclusiveness of partners/collaborators)
- (B) Environmental Remediation
- (C) Increased social benefit for the target audience
- (D) Increase in quantity/volume of waste collected
- (E) Inclusiveness of the target audience

13. Source of funding for your engagements/projects in the communities?

- (A) Grant
- (B) Investment support
- (C) Self-fund
- (D) Family/Friends' support

