

# **Sustainable Solid Waste Management Business in Africa**

## **Commercial Garbage collection Service**

**Business and Services Company Ltd**

[www.bsccsarl.com](http://www.bsccsarl.com)



**To make clean our environment**



## **1. Starting point:**

### **❑ Situation in 2008**



Goma in 2008

People dumping their waste anywhere they can find a place to dump.

Street children were the most collecting the garbage from houses and throw anywhere

### **Beyond this, we had many problems:**

- The development of mosquitoes, flies and other insects causing human diseases (malaria, cholera, typhoid...).
- The bad smell from the waste most during the rain period.
- The contamination of the lake (Kivu lake when the rain brings the waste from the city)...

## 2. Institutional setting:

□ **A survey in the community:** All started by a survey in the community to know whether the community will accept a commercial waste management system. 500 households and 100 businesses filled a forms of two pages (A4), 10 students were recruited for the task.

□ **Waste management policy:** there were no clear policy, due to the long period of bad governance of the country for many decades.

□ **Advocacy for a new waste collection system:** the first action was to advocate for a new waste collection system, whereby a private company will offer the service to the community, collecting payment from the users of the service.

□ **Sensitizing the community for a new waste collection system:** all the means (direct contact, radio, posters, seminars...) were used to bring the community to adopt the new system proposed by BSC Ltd.

□ **Response from the community:** during the survey, the community showed a big interest in having a professional company that will collect their waste in a proper way.

### 3. Approach:

□ **Sensitization**: this was the hard task to change the mind of the community. Several channels were used:

- **The direct contact with the responsible of households and management of companies.** This was the most efficient : 10 students were recruited to do this within a month. They were paid commission per signed contract.

- **Other means:** Media (radio), posters, seminars, conferences...

□ **Collecting the garbage to eliminate several small informal landfills:** sensitizing the neighborhood population to use the service offered by the company and stop with the bad practices.

□ **Launching the service with a few households (13 only):** despite of the receptivity of the community for the new system, the time to sign the contract, the response was very low as at the end of the first week, only 13 households were onboard. The service was launched with the 13 and when the track was collecting the waste, many others households were joining , with the shift up from 13 to over 300 in only 3 months.

#### 4. Outputs:

- ❑ The high reduce of waste dumped in informal ways: many heap of waste disappeared a few months after the starting of waste collection by BSC ltd in August 2008;
- ❑ The cleanliness of the city: in the area covered by BSC waste collection service, the city became more clean;
- ❑ The reduce of diseases related to the lack of hygiene: Many households witnessed that they had less cases of malaria, typhoid... since they have a proper waste disposal as well as regular collection of their waste.
- ❑ The adoption of good waste collection system.
- ❑ The creation of other small waste collection companies inspired by the vision.
- ❑ The continuing waste collection service thanks to the payment done by the users who cover the cost.
- ❑ Reduce of the soil and water pollution by the waste.
- ❑ An economic impact: creation of new jobs.
- ❑ The recycling of the waste collected.



## **5. Lessons:**

**❑ The community has a big potential to solve many of his problems if there is a visionary player to design the best solution and take the lead:** it seemed impossible, It hasn't been possible until BSC Ltd introduced the commercial waste management system.

**❑ A good and big vision always find support to be implemented:** The community, the state and other stakeholders will get on board of a new vision if it is well resigned and guarantees to solve the problem.

**❑ The introduction of an innovative idea is always not easy and requires perseverance from the initiator:** it hasn't been easy with only 13 households registered at the end of the first week of campaign held by a strong team of 10 people. It required patience and perseverance from the organizer

**❑ Question:** *Does the business waste collection meet most African countries regulations?*

## **6. Transfer:**

***The system can be duplicated in these conditions:***

- ☐ There is a low rate of the waste collected from houses and businesses.
  
- ☐ The existence of a visionary entrepreneur with high interest in community issues in general and waste management in particular.
  
- ☐ The national regulation allows the introduction of a commercial waste management system.
  
- ☐ The state is open for a public-private partnership.
  
- ☐ The availability of the community to use a commercial waste collection company and pay for the service.