

# **Project: National awareness campaign on the sound management and international trade of plastic waste in Chad**

**Conducted by the 2AD NGO in Chad**

**Executive summary**

**June 2021**

The Association “Agir pour le Développement Durable” (2AD) is a non-profit organisation under Chadian law, created in 2017 by a group of Chadian youths, teachers, and students. The

main objective was to involve youth, women and men in “sustainable development and environmental protection”.

A brief overview of plastic production in the world in recent decades shows that increasingly more plastic is produced than in previous decades, which constitutes a real danger for living beings (humans, animals, and plants).

In Chad, the situation is a matter of concern. According to the regional media outlet [Média Terre](#), twenty tons of plastic waste are produced annually in the country. This figure, which has undoubtedly increased in recent years, is a true indicator of the increased generation of plastic waste in the country. However, national plastic producers and importers are not yet considering any policy for the reduction of this new source of pollution.

This mini project, developed and conducted by 2AD Chad with the support of the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), focused on investigating Chadian policies on the rational management of plastic waste, i.e. the collection and treatment of used plastics in the country, particularly in the city of N’Djamena, the driver of the country’s economy.

The overall objective of our activities was to assess the production of plastic waste in Chad, to raise awareness among target stakeholders on toxic additives contained in plastics, and to alert state authorities on the international trade/movement of plastic waste, so that Chad can protect its citizens, environment, and economy from the adverse impacts associated with waste dumping in the global south and ensure that international mechanisms such as the Basel and Stockholm Conventions are upheld.

To this end, several activities were implemented, namely: documenting the origin and use of single-use plastics in Chad and the waste derived from them; inviting target stakeholders and raising their awareness on the harmful chemical additives present in plastics; sharing the main findings of our research and relevant recommendations for the reduction of the high propensity of single-use plastic waste at the national and regional levels.

### **1.1. Research on the production and import of plastic packaging (LEYDA) in Chad**

Our investigation into the origin of plastics and plastic waste in Chad took us to three facilities in the capital. First of all, we had several discussions with the Ministry of environment,

specifically, the SAICM focal point. These discussions enabled us to collect reliable information, including the fact that Chad produced around 19.76 thousand tons of plastic waste in 2019. However, Chad adopted a series of legal and institutional measures. Chad banned the import, marketing and use of single-use plastics (LEYDA) throughout the country a few years ago. Nevertheless, apart from a few ministerial decrees banning the use of LEYDA in Chad, our research showed that the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development has no documents or information on the production, distribution, and marketing of plastic products in the country.

We then turned to the N'Djamena City Council, which is the main waste collection and management institution in the capital and in Chad. The information provided by the N'Djamena City Council revealed that plastic waste is not well controlled or regulated, especially the dangerous chemical additives it contains. However, the City Council shared their difficulties in dealing with plastic waste efficiently, and underlined the exponential growth of plastic in the dumps and in the streets of the capital.

## **1.2. Research on the main producers and distributors of single-use plastic items in Chad**

In our desire to trace the origin of the plastic waste found in Chad, mainly in the capital N'Djamena, the 2AD team visited several plastic production companies and major importers of these items in Chad.

Our team visited four companies, namely EXPRESS (importer), and NATTE, KESHENG, and GREAT WALL (producers), all located in the capital. Our first objective was to know the daily, weekly, monthly or annual amounts of plastics imported or manufactured by each of these companies. Unfortunately, we were unable to gather any information on this subject, as the plastic manufacturers we met did not answer this question clearly. Overall, they were unwilling to reveal their annual production of plastic and any associated information. Our second objective was to raise awareness through the media via a press conference to inform stakeholders and make recommendations for a better management of single-use plastics in the country.

### 1.3. Newsletters to decision makers and entrepreneurs

Informational, awareness-raising, and invitational letters to participate in the press conference were distributed to 10 companies producing and/or marketing plastics or items with single-use plastics, all located in the capital of Chad and its surroundings. Awareness-raising letters and invitations were also sent to the Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the N'Djamena City Council, five non-governmental organisations, and the local media. (You can find these letters in the appendix section of this report).

### 1.4. Stakeholder awareness and recommendations

In addition to the informational and awareness-raising letters sent to different target stakeholders, several other sub-activities were organised to reach out to and inform more people about the adverse effects of the increasing plastic waste pollution. For this purpose, dozens of flyers and other communication materials on the chemical additives contained in plastics, and their consequences for human and environmental health were put on display at various intersections of the city, in both French and Arabic.

In addition, another awareness-raising event, a press conference, was organized towards the end of the project in the presence of invited stakeholders. During the press conference, discussions focused on the following issues:

-  **What is plastic waste? Why should it be considered toxic or hazardous waste?**
-  **Who are the main producers of plastic waste in Chad?**
-  **Is Chad a victim of international trade of hazardous waste?**
-  **What are the consequences of plastic waste on the people's lives?**

During this press conference, 2AD presented its main recommendations to the whole community, especially to state control and regulation authorities, to companies involved in the production or distribution of waste, which causes pollution, and to civil society organisations and the media for permanent awareness raising.

We recommended the following:

**The Government of Chad should:**

- Implement necessary and effective measures to prevent the international movement of hazardous waste into Chad, including the Basel Convention Ban Amendment.
- Establish a national system of rational, effective, and sustainable waste management.
- Support companies involved in collecting and processing plastic waste in Chad.
- Set up national regulations limiting the manufacture of single-use plastics and promoting the reuse of plastics for as long as possible.

**Companies should:**

- Comply with all laws, regulations, and policies regarding plastic production.
- Include a social component in their budget for the collection and processing of plastic waste in the country's major cities to ensure and uphold the human rights of waste workers.

**The civil society should:**

- Inform the general public, and raise awareness of the undesirable effects of uncontrolled use of plastics and the proliferation of plastic waste in the streets.
- Assist in generating data on plastic waste pollution in Chad and propose concrete and effective solutions.
- Encourage the media to broadcast information and stories on the toxicity of plastics and the disproportionate health and environmental impacts this can cause in Chad.