

# Tackling plastic waste in Bangladesh and Ghana

A project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) to support implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal



## Why does plastic waste matter?

Rapidly increasing plastic pollution has become a global environmental problem. Did you know that:

- We produced more plastic over the last ten years than during the whole 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Only 9 % of the 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced to date has been recycled.
- Approximately 90 % of all trash floating on the ocean's surface is plastic waste.
- 12 billion tonnes of plastic litter may end up in landfills and the environment by 2050.

As it is not sustainable to clean up plastic pollution once it has entered the oceans, the plastic waste challenge needs to be tackled at source. Weak or non-existent waste management systems remain a critical issue in large parts of the world, especially in developing countries.

## What does the project aim to achieve?

To help address these challenges, the project '*Promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of plastic wastes*' seeks to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics by strengthening capacity in Bangladesh and Ghana as well as at the regional and global levels. The project is funded by the Norwegian Agency for development Cooperation (Norad) and aims to:

### 1. Strengthen capacity to control transboundary movements of plastic waste

- \* Improved legal, policy and institutional structures
- \* Improved decision-making by competent authorities



### 2. Ensure the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste

- \* Baseline data and improved policy
- \* Increased information on generation and flows of plastic waste



### 3. Prevent and minimize the generation of plastic waste

- \* Improved practices, design and processes in packaging, fishing and wastewater sectors
- \* Increased awareness and application of strategies in target sectors



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## Which activities are being undertaken?

Project implementation has been initiated in December 2018 and is scheduled to be completed in early 2021. Partners, stakeholders and experts have been engaged, inception meetings have been held, baseline studies have been undertaken and substantive activities are underway (see timeline for selected activities by component).

### Selected initial findings to inform the project interventions

#### Ghana



#### Bangladesh



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Currently developing a National Plastic Waste Management Policy</li> <li>* Large majority of increasing amounts of imported plastics becomes waste</li> <li>* Widespread use of plastic sachets for drinking water</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Among first countries with a ban on certain plastic shopping bags</li> <li>* Plastic trade and production among the countries' key industries</li> <li>* 70 % of plastic reportedly recycled, but significant amounts released to environment</li> </ul> |
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While both countries face specific circumstances, they also share a number of challenges: Significant gaps persist in the infrastructure, regulations and institutions for ESM of plastic waste, inventories are lacking, and plastic waste management is dominated by the informal sector.

## Are you interested in collaborating and learning more about the project?

The project engages partners and stakeholders from governments, the private sector, civil society and academia. If you are interested to collaborate, please contact the Secretariat:

[kei.ohno-woodall@brsmeas.org](mailto:kei.ohno-woodall@brsmeas.org) ; [jost.dittkrist@brsmeas.org](mailto:jost.dittkrist@brsmeas.org)

For further information on the project, please visit:

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwastes/Overview/Projects/tabid/7991/Default.aspx>

You can also get engaged by joining the new Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste. To find out more about the Plastic Waste Partnership and to join, please visit:

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwastes/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx>

