

TUNISIA

ALIGNING FUNDER'S EXPECTATIONS WITH THE NEEDS OF FIELD ACTORS IN TERMS OF ACTION PRIORITIES



BEYOND PLASTIC MED - UNOC-3 SIDE-EVENT IN NICE

Report on the workshop - June 11th, 2025

 beyondplasticmed.org

The feedback from the field actors comes from a survey answered by the BeMed community of practice and Notre Grand Bleu association, which was present during the discussions. There is a gap between short-term actions needs on the field to improve waste management in order to limit leakage into the environment and the longer-term vision, prioritized by the funders, which focuses on reduction of plastic production and consumption, namely through support to the private sector.

REGULATIONS

Priorities for field actors:

National action plan to reduce plastic pollution.

Affective legislation for the HoReCa sector

Implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems.



Priorities for funders:

Advocate and support actions with decision-makers to implement strong regulations that ban or reduce plastic production.

Support the implementation of existing plastic legislation.

Advice and good practices

1. Implement **advocacy actions** at national and local levels to encourage ambitious public policies for reducing production and toxicity.

Tips:

- Rely on existing data and highlight the impact on human health.
- Propose accurate communication adapted to the target audience, highlighting potential pitfalls.

Example of effective action:

Effective advocacy requires experience. Offering advocacy training to other organizations/actors and sharing tools can be a good way of strengthening advocacy in the Mediterranean.

2. Implementation of actions to **support the application of the law**

Example of an impactful action:

Include obligations to reduce plastic use in local action plans as a condition for obtaining permits from local authorities (e.g. authorisation to set up a beach bar is granted only if no single-use plastics are used). Beware of false solutions that appear good: prioritise reusables.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Priorities for field actors:

Support for informal waste collectors.

Improving waste management: infrastructure, collection, sorting, etc.).

Priorities for funders:

Circular economy: work on waste management, focusing on the upstream: eco-design, reduction in use, reuse to delay disposal, etc.



Advice and good practices

This aspect was primarily emphasised by those working in the field. A discrepancy is emerging between the needs on the ground and those of the funders. While the field actors attach great importance to waste management, the funders focus more on reducing plastic use and production.

Quote from a funder: "The priority is on upstream activities and solutions; if relevant, these can be supplemented by downstream activities."

Tips for field actors:

- Identify funders likely to finance infrastructure or improved waste management projects.
- Consider source reduction and reuse as a means of reducing waste production.
- Justify local needs and demonstrate how proposed downstream actions are completed by upstream actions.
- Avoid recycling actions that present a risk of impact transfer.
- Work jointly with local authorities to ensure project sustainability.

Tips for funders:

- Take into account the reality on the ground.
- Define 'upcycling'.

ACTIVITY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Priorities for field actors:

No priority mentioned.

Priorities for funders:

Supporting the private sector in reducing plastic consumption.

Avoiding impact transfer: false solutions.

Find/help develop eco-environmental income-generating activities for local populations to replace polluting activities.



Advice and good practices

This aspect did not emerge as the top priority action for the field actors. It would be useful to understand why and to see how these actions could be integrated. However, The HoReCa sector was cited as a priority sector to target in Tunisia.

RAISING AWARENESS

Priorities for field actors:

Coordinated actions for awareness campaigns: avoid sporadic, underfunded actions.

Act on a relevant scale (e.g. city), targeting all stakeholders, through different networks and with long-term actions.



Priorities for funders:

Raising awareness on the plastic pollution risks for the health.

Raising public awareness: training, education to encourage plastic reduction.

Educating people about better alternatives.

Advice and good practices

Priority targets: **public authorities**, the **private sector** (see above), the general public and the schools.

General public:

Advice:

- Avoid sporadic actions
- Prioritize multi-actor campaigns on a regional scale, with coordinated actions.

Schools:

- Advice: Avoid sporadic actions. One-shots actions have no long-term impact.

Example of effective actions:

- Add a module into the teaching program of students.
- Train teacher trainers and build a training module that remains in place from one year to the next.
- Involve a school in monitoring a Marine Education Area (long-term monitoring).

Participatory science: an interesting tool for all target groups.



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