

Port Sudan: The Community at the Center of the Fish Market's Rebirth

From **February 4th to 8th**, the **Port Sudan Fish Market** was the focus of a **major community cleanup campaign** promoted by the **MIPRO-Sud project**. This initiative represents a **concrete first step** towards a broader objective: **the redevelopment and complete restoration of the Port Sudan Fish Market, scheduled for 2026** within the framework of the MIPRO-Sud project.

The market will be **completely renovated and equipped** according to **international standards**, featuring modern infrastructure, dedicated water systems, fish preservation facilities, renewable energy, and functional spaces to ensure **food security, product quality, and dignity of labor**.

Implementation and Community Participation

The activities were implemented directly by the project, with operational support from **the Red Sea Environment Center (RSEC)**, an all-women-led **NGO** engaged to execute the planned actions.

For four days, over 100 volunteers—all active market operators and local community members—worked side by side to restore decorum, hygiene, and safety to one of the city's most important economic spaces.

The campaign represented a strong signal of participation, **female leadership**, and **community ownership**.

A Collective Action: From the Market to the Community

The hygiene restoration and purification activities initially focused on the market's main hangar, but also involved:

- **External areas and access points,**
- **Adjacent fish restaurants,**
- **Administrative offices,**
- **Rest areas** frequented by fishermen and traders.

The first day opened with an **official launch event** bringing together all involved stakeholders: the **Ministry of Production and Economic Resources (MOPER) of the Red Sea State, the Port Sudan Locality, leaders of fishermen's and traders' cooperatives**, and **representatives of the local community**, with strong participation from women and youth.

Training, Hygiene, and Best Practices

Before operations began, all volunteers participated in a **practical training session** conducted by the Red Sea Environment Center on cleaning methods, safety, and waste management. In parallel, fishermen, fish cleaners, and traders took part in training sessions dedicated to **hygiene best practices**, which are fundamental for improving product quality and daily working conditions.

During the campaign, solid waste and plastic were primarily collected, which were subsequently removed and transported by a parastatal company responsible for urban waste management in Port Sudan. The same company also performed:

- **A deep cleaning of drainage channels,**

- **Cleaning and sanitization of counters,**
- **Pest and rodent control interventions.**

The cleanup campaign demonstrated the **community's readiness to be an active part of the change**, strengthening the sense of belonging and the sustainability of future interventions.

The MIPRO-Sud project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).