

# Kinshasa ‘Kin la Belle’ Programme Anchors \$250m Urban Transformation Project

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**The World Bank has approved \$250 million in financing for the Kinshasa Urban Transformation and Jobs Programme, positioning it as a flagship, multi-phase project aimed at addressing two of the city’s most urgent challenges: waste management and employment.**

Known as *Kin la Belle*, the initiative forms part of a broader \$900 million programme portfolio targeting infrastructure, resilience and economic development across the Congolese capital.

## **A phased urban transformation project**

Phase 1 of the programme is structured as a delivery-focused project with three interconnected workstreams:

- **Solid waste system development:** Building core infrastructure including collection points, transfer stations and an integrated waste management centre
- **Urban connectivity and planning:** Preparing future investments in river transport and waterfront development
- **Job creation and economic participation:** Delivering labour-intensive public works and supporting small enterprises across the waste value chain

This phased approach allows the programme to establish a functional model in selected areas before scaling across the wider city.

### **Addressing a critical urban systems failure**

Kinshasa generates around 12,000 tonnes of waste daily, with the vast majority unmanaged. The absence of formal systems has created cascading risks, from blocked drainage and flooding to public health concerns.

The project tackles this at a systems level, combining infrastructure delivery with regulatory reform and institutional strengthening. Importantly, it also introduces public-private partnership models to attract long-term investment into waste services—shifting the sector from reactive cleanup to structured service delivery.

### **Linking infrastructure to employment outcomes**

Unlike traditional urban projects, Kin la Belle integrates job creation directly into its delivery model.

Phase 1 will:

- Create immediate employment through public works programmes
- Support micro and small enterprises operating within the waste ecosystem
- Develop a pipeline of skilled workers aligned to circular economy activities

The emphasis on women and youth reflects both demographic realities and the need to address persistently high unemployment levels in the city.

### **Building readiness for future investment**

Beyond immediate outputs, the programme is designed to unlock longer-term urban development opportunities.

Preparatory work on river transport and waterfront redevelopment aims to:

- Improve access to economic zones
- Open up underutilised urban space
- Enable future private and public investment

This positions the project not just as a service upgrade, but as a foundation for broader economic transformation.

### **Part of a coordinated programme portfolio**

Kin la Belle does not operate in isolation. It complements two existing World Bank-supported programmes:

- **Kin Elenda** (urban development and resilience)
- **PRIUR** (flood resilience and infrastructure)

Together, these form a coordinated delivery framework addressing infrastructure, resilience and economic inclusion. The alignment reduces duplication and increases the likelihood of sustained impact across the city.

### **A project model built for scale**

With Kinshasa projected to become Africa’s largest city by 2030, the need for scalable urban solutions is acute. The design of Kin la Belle reflects this reality, focusing on:

- Pilot implementation followed by expansion
- Institutional capacity building
- Private sector integration

“Cleaner streets, fewer floods, and real jobs” is how the World Bank framed the intended outcomes—simple in phrasing, but dependent on disciplined execution across multiple project layers.

### **From intervention to system transformation**

At its core, Kin la Belle represents a shift in how urban challenges are approached in fast-growing cities. Rather than isolated interventions, it adopts a programme-level structure with clear project components, defined outcomes and integrated financing.

If delivered effectively, it offers a practical model for turning fragmented urban services into coordinated systems—linking infrastructure, employment and long-term city planning into a single, executable framework.