

Newsletter #18

August 2023 - Sustainable MSWM Financing



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Challenges and Opportunities of a Sustainable MSWM Finance system

Establishing or improving a sustainable financing system for Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) is one of the major challenges when it comes to sustainable operations of the MSWM system in cities, especially in emerging countries.

Many low- and middle-income countries often struggle with budget deficits to provide waste management services. According to a World Bank survey, solid waste management expenditure in cities of low-income countries accounts for approximately 19% of the total municipal budgets¹, and some cities spend up to 50% of the total municipal budgets on their solid waste management operation²³. In order to improve the city's waste management financing system, it is crucial to reduce the operational costs and mobilise and run the financial resources in sustainable way, for example, by boosting cost recovery through the recovery activities¹.

The challenges and opportunities of sustainable MSWM finance systems vary depending on the specific context in different regions. Here are some common challenges and opportunities that are often associated with sustainable MSWM finance systems:

► Challenges

1. Initial Capital Investment:

Establishing sustainable MSWM infrastructure, such as sanitary disposal sites, recycling facilities, or collection and disposal equipment would often be a challenge, especially

for municipalities with limited financial resources, but it is a precondition to offering consistent services to all citizens. However, this often requires significant upfront capital investment.

2. Financial Viability:

Ensuring the long-term financial viability of MSWM systems is a challenge that plagues many cities. Operational expenditures for labour, fuel, servicing of equipment, depreciation of vehicles, maintaining other assets, and landfill management basically account for more than capital investments in the total municipal budgets¹.

3. Cost Recovery:

Designing a finance system that ensures sufficient revenue generation to cover the operational and maintenance costs of MSWM infrastructure is also not easy for many cities. Achieving cost recovery while keeping waste management services affordable for citizens is a balancing act. Most of the countries, except for a few high-income countries, cannot fully recover their operational costs from user fees, and they require subsidies from the national government or donations from international donors¹.

4. Limited Awareness and Engagement:

Municipalities may face challenges in raising awareness among citizens about the importance of sustainable waste management practices and the associated costs. This lack of awareness can affect public support for financing initiatives.

5. Informal Waste Sector:

In many regions, a significant portion of waste management is handled by the informal sector, which operates outside formal regulatory frameworks. Integrating the informal sector into a sustainable finance system requires some coordinations and regulatory measures as well as stakeholders coordination.

► Opportunities

1. Cost Savings through Waste Reduction:

Effective waste reduction and source separation programmes can lead to cost savings in waste management operations. By reducing waste generation and maximizing recycling rates, municipalities can potentially reduce the overall financial burden. An effective method to promote source separation and recycling is the Results-Based Financing (RBF). RBF is MSW financial mechanisms that establishes payment for solid waste services based on the achievement and verification of pre-determined targets. quality of the service delivered previously as predetermined results⁴. In other words, by linking financing to performance, RBF encourages stakeholders responsible for waste services to efficiently operate the system and promote innovation as well as locally appropriate solutions¹.

2. Revenue Generation from Resource Recovery:

Sustainable waste management practices, such as recycling and

¹ Kaza, S. et al. (2018) What a waste 2.0: A global snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

² Henry, R.K., Yongsheng, Z. and Jun, D. (2006) 'Municipal solid waste management challenges in developing countries – Kenyan case study', Waste Management, 26(1), pp. 92–100. doi:10.1016/j.wasman.2005.03.007.

³ Guerrero, L.A., Maas, G. and Hogland, W. (2013) 'Solid waste management challenges for cities in developing countries', Waste Management, 33(1), pp. 220–232. doi:10.1016/j.wasman.2012.09.008.

⁴ Lee, M. et al. (2014) Results-based financing for municipal solid waste. Washington, DC: Global Urban and DRM Unit, World Bank.



composting, offer opportunities for revenue generation through the sale of recyclable materials and compost. These revenue streams can help offset the costs of waste management.

3. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):

Collaborations between the public and private sectors can bring in additional expertise, technology, and financial resources. PPPs can help leverage private sector investments and accelerate the development of sustainable MSWM infrastructure. PPPs require simple and transparent procurement processes, minimal political and currency risks, and strong legal systems that enforce payments and encourage user compliance with waste management rules and regulations¹. It is important for private companies to have low risks to participate in the waste management system¹.

4. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):

Implementing EPR policies can shift the financial burden of waste management from municipalities to producers, encouraging them to adopt more sustainable packaging and take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. Producers can pay the cost of collection and disposal directly to municipalities or develop a system for citizens to return their products¹. EPR systems aim to reduce the amount of waste generated and municipalities' costs and encourage sustainable consumption⁵.

5. Circular Economy Transition:

A shift towards a circular economy, where waste is minimized, resources are conserved, and materials are kept in productive use, presents an opportunity for sustainable MSWM finance. This transition generates economic benefits through increased resource efficiency and reduced waste generation.

In conclusion, it is important to note that the successful implementation of a sustainable MSWM finance system requires an integrated approach, including careful planning and management, stakeholder engagement, and continuous monitoring and evaluation to adapt to evolving challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities. On top of that, a mix of strategies should be considered to sustainably implement solid waste management projects as the proper financing sources highly depend on the local context¹.

Case Studies

Waste pickers social inclusion financing through packaging EPR systems: a Brazilian case study

This article was contributed by Flávio de Miranda Ribeiro, Santos Catholic University, Brazil.

As many developing countries, Brazil faces challenges regarding Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM). From the total MSW generation (81.8 million t/year), 29.7 million t/year are mismanaged, ending up in dumping sites or the environment. According to 2021 data, 2,826 municipalities (out of 5,568) do not count with an adequate landfill, and separate collection is even worst implemented.

Nevertheless, some materials present significant recycling rates, as aluminum cans (98.7%), paper (66.9%) and steel cans (47.1%), while others are increasing their recovery, like glass (25.8%) and plastic (23.1%). Instead of a result from

official systems, those achievements are due to the historical job of waste pickers – that over the last 40 years are moving from dumping sites picking to the separation process, at organized cooperatives.

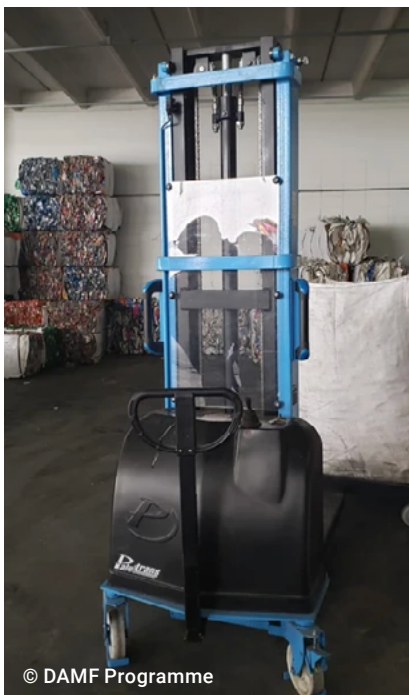
In 2022 Brazil had 1,996 waste pickers cooperatives, grouping 59,609 workers, sorting 1.3 million t/year of recyclable materials. Those numbers, however, are underestimated, once there are still many in the formalization process, besides a



⁵ Product Stewardship Initiative. (2014) Electronics EPR: A Case Study of State Programs in the United States. Boston, MA: Product Stewardship Initiative.

huge number of autonomous waste pickers. Their organization into cooperatives, however, gives not only social inclusion, dignity and better working conditions, but also allows their integration into formal MSWM.

Waste pickers' formalization was greatly improved by the National Solid Waste Policy, enacted in 2010. There are various obligations, including the implementation of 'EPR-like' schemes (not traditional EPR where responsibility is shared throughout the product lifecycle) and the duty to prioritize waste pickers in both public MSWM and implementing EPR. Since then, private companies have been supporting cooperatives according to different models, with some inspiring experiences. One of the most successful programs is called "hands to the future" (Dê a Mão para o Futuro, DAMF, in Portuguese acronyms).



DAMF was created in 2006 by three industry associations (beauty and personal care; cleaning products; and industrialized bread and pasta), joining 204 enterprises in 2022. From a complete diagnosis and a "participatory strategic planning", the necessary investments are defined case by case. These programmes can include different type of supports,



from technical consulting and training to improvement of facilities, to IT and equipment, counselling for cooperative formalization and operation.

Waste pickers' revenues come from the sale of material, but when a cooperative reaches full structuring, DAMF changes its partnership model to the payment for a sorting service, based on the material weight. In exchange of the support, a contract ensures that DAMF can use the amount of sorted material to comply with their companies' EPR target.

In 2022 DAMF supported 182 cooperatives in 165 municipalities, benefiting 6,019 waste pickers, responsible for sorting 163,845 t/year (overcoming DAMF target of 118,534 t/year for 2022). Since 2013, more than 966 tons of material were recovered, representing for municipalities an alleviation of MSWM, both in operational and financial aspects.

Those outcomes are the consequence of a continuous effort from the regulated industry, which since 2013 invested more than US\$29.4 million in waste pickers cooperatives through DAMF. Annual value is increasing, and only in 2022 a total of US\$ 5.1 million were invested, including equipment (US\$ 1.6 million in cargo trucks, forklifts, sorting belts and other), payment for sorting services (US\$ 1.5 million) and other.

However, the most relevant result of DAMF is the social benefit. Once formalized into cooperatives, waste pickers can access labour benefits. Besides, the program investments led to operational improvements, and their average productivity is increasing year after year, with 21% of them sorting more than 3 t/ person/ month. As a consequence, there is an annually increasing of their revenues, with 65% earning more than the Brazilian minimum wage in 2022, with an average income 18.4% over this value (for more than 6,000 supported waste pickers).

DAMF case study shows the enormous potential of private companies to support waste pickers, through packaging EPR compliance, promoting both social inclusion and improving MSWM at municipalities. Notwithstanding, some challenges remain, as: avoiding free riders and increasing packaging EPR targets (at 22% actually), to benefit a crescent number of waste pickers; better integration of EPR and MSWM, to favour more municipalities; and amplifying the model of payment for sorting services, to ensure a more stable source of income for waste pickers.

A transition towards sustainable MSWM finance through a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system : a French case study

This article was contributed by Françoise Bonnet, ACR+, Belgium.

Besançon and its surrounding municipalities in France representing more than 225,000 inhabitants used to have a quite traditional waste management system, with high levels of residual waste sent to an incineration plant, composed of two ovens, an old one built in 1976 and a second one from 2002.

In 2008, instead of spending money for maintenance of the old furnace, ACR+ member, Besançon and its surrounding municipalities, decided to start moving away from incineration and close the old furnace. For that purpose, they put in place an ambitious programme of waste prevention, decentralized composting combined with a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) taxation. The idea behind this programme was to preserve public health and to save money.

When they started the programme, the quantity of residual waste per inhabitant was 217 kg/year. They decided to put a target of 180 kg of residual waste per inhabitant by 2015 and 55 % of separate collection. The municipality of Besançon and all concerned municipalities received a financial support from Life European Union Programme through the project "Waste on a diet" from 2012 to 2016 that served to test and implement solutions, including the implementation of a PAYT system. In addition to that, small local composting facilities were installed.



The PAYT is a fee system by which citizens pay according to how much residual waste they generate. Usually and in the present case, the waste fee is divided into two components: a fixed fee based on the size of the citizen/household residual waste bin; and a variable component that depends on the amount of set-outs and, in some cases, on the weight of the bin too. The PAYT scheme was an incentive to increase the separate collection of waste (mainly packaging waste for which a national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system exists), and especially to push citizens to start composting their food scraps, thus reducing the waste they produce and, consequently, the fee to pay.

Thanks to the improved separate collection of waste, the quality of the recovered waste increased and consequently the incomes of selling materials too, which has reduced the share of the waste management costs covered by citizens from 80% to 65%. As a global result, the average waste fee per inhabitant in Besançon and the surrounding municipalities was 72€ a year, in 2015, significantly lower than the French average of 89€ per inhabitant.

In 2021, the average waste fee per inhabitant in Besançon and its surroundings was still 20€ less than the French average.



Get to know our Affiliates

In this section, we give our Waste Wise Cities Affiliates the possibility to introduce themselves.

Circular Plastic Institute



Circular Plastic Institute (CPI), resident at Karachi School of Business and Leadership (KSBL), is set-up in 2022 to serve as an interdisciplinary and collaborative platform of research and advocacy for public, private, and academic stakeholders to move towards a data-driven, zero-waste future for Pakistan. CPI aims at bringing practitioners, academics, and relevant stakeholders from public, private, and non-profit spheres together to generate evidence and knowledge transfer in the circular economy with a focus on plastics, using several models of center-member and center-stakeholder partnership.

Situated on the academic side of the academic-practitioner, CPI facilitates

collaborations and partnerships across the plastic circularity sphere (including but not limited to upstream and downstream actors, relevant government departments and agencies e.g., Ministry of Climate Change, Chamber of Commerce) to produce work of benefit.

The purpose of generating evidence-based analysis and increasing information/knowledge transfer, and understanding of the circular plastic ecosystem in Pakistan, is to provide evidence-based and data-driven

research and capacity building relevant stakeholders to support changes in practices and policies based on research results, consultancy and advisory services, and other key actions agenda (e.g., developing short courses, curricula, executive training) against identified key issues (see Figure 1).

<p>Non-collaborative applied research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research is based out of laboratories, and focused on fundamental or basic research Applied research initiatives are fragmented and piecemeal 	<p>Lagging skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutting edge, best-in-class expertise specific to a circular economy for plastics is missing Over-reliance on expensive, international or multilateral consultancy 	<p>Policy needs to be benchmarked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy advocacy and targets are often not science based or data driven There is a gap in horizontal and vertical policy standardization 	<p>Lack of information access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and private sector leaders do not have access to platforms where they can gain exposure to latest knowledge and trends
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Figure 1 Identified key issues challenging data-driven move towards a zero plastic waste future in Pakistan

African Solution



African Solution was founded in the year 2001 by Abdi Hirsi Ali to contribute to finding a solution to protect the Somali environment from poor plastic waste management. Since then, the company has expanded its recycling and environmental activities. The company got its legal status in 2015.

The company is involved in environmental protection by terrestrial and marine clean-ups and recycling plastics to eco-friendly tiles, paving stones, bathroom tiles, brick interlocks, fencing posts etc. It plays a major role in municipal waste management to mitigate climate change and its impact. The recycling company has contributed so much to plastics and other waste management by recycling and proper disposal and management at landfills for both Mogadishu and Kismayo.

The all inclusive company is also a social enterprise and gives back to society by training vulnerable and minority groups in recycling activities offering them job opportunities that will improve their livelihoods. Vulnerable women from Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps are offered opportunities to participate in the collection of plastics and bring them to the company's waste yard for a token of 0.50 dollars per Kilo. This has motivated more women to get involved in plastic waste in management.

We work with our communities and local government.

You can watch the work of the African Solution:

- [Somalia Displaced: Recycling plant enables women to earn money](#) (English only)

- [Somali Firm Makes Roofing Tiles From Recycled Plastics](#) (English only)



Waste Wise Cities Affiliates

Do you want to

- Support Waste Wise Cities and improve waste management in cities around the world?
- Be an official partner of Waste Wise Cities and UN-Habitat?
- Show up on the Waste Wise Cities website?
- Implement the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)?
- Read about your activities in this newsletter?
- Do much more?

Then [contact us](#) and become a Waste Wise Cities Affiliate!
Together we can become Waste Wise!

Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)

You have forgotten what the Waste Wise Cities Tool is? No worries, you can find all information on our [website](#).

[Here](#) you find out which cities have already submitted data collected with the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) and as you can see from the article below, more data is becoming available.

WaCT application in Homabay, Kenya

Homabay County is one of the members of Waste Wise Cities and the African Clean Cities Platform. It is one of the 47 counties in Kenya which is in the Nyanza Region within The Lake Victoria Basin. It covers an area of 3,183.3km and has a population of 1,131,950 people (2019 Census). It is estimated that 14% of the population is living in urban areas. Lake Victoria is a major source of livelihood for Homabay County, the county's economy is anchored on Agriculture and Fisheries.

Homabay conducted SDG Indicator 11.6.1 monitoring using the WaCT, from

February to March 2023. The survey covered all three sub-counties, which are Homabay Town, Oyugis, and Mbita. The results show that the city generates 76 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per day, which means that each person generates 0.38kg of MSW per day. The collection rate is 42% and the city recovery rate is 17%; however, the waste managed in controlled facilities (SDG 11.6.1) is 0%.

There is the non-existence of Municipal MRFs/Transfer stations, no source separation, almost 100% of recyclables

supply is from the informal waste sector (done by waste pickers) and a number/all informal waste collectors / intermediate traders are not licensed.

Based on [the results](#), the local stakeholders workshop held on the 9th of May 2023, discussed the challenges and opportunities to improve its MSW system, and shared the ideas with all waste management officials, and private waste operators including waste pickers.



WaCT application in Iramba, Tanzania

Iramba District is one of the members of Waste Wise Cities and the African Clean Cities Platform. The district is one of the six districts with one municipality in the Singida region in the central part of Tanzania's mainland. The district has four administrative divisions, 20 wards, 78 villages and 386 sub-villages. The main economic activities of Iramba District are small-scale agriculture, livestock keeping, business and mining. In the 2022 census, the district had a population of 328,912. The district has conducted SDG Indicator 11.6.1 monitoring using the WaCT, from



February to March 2023. The survey covered three wards, which are Kiomboi (agricultural area), Shelui (commercial area), and Ntwike (mining area).

The results show that the district generates 528 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per day, which means that each person generates 1.60 kg of MSW per day. The collection rate is 1%, and the recovery rate is 0%. There is no recovery facility in the district, and the MSW managed in controlled facilities in the district (SDG 11.6.1) showed 0%. All the recoverables from the disposal facilities are sent to Dar es Salaam or

other districts in/outside the Singida region where Iramba District belongs.

Based on [the results](#), the local stakeholder workshop held on 2nd March 2023 discussed the challenges

and opportunities to improve its MSW system, and shared the ideas with the district/ward/village officials, sub-village leaders, religious leaders and volunteers for the survey.



WaCT application in Kinshasa, DRC

21st February 2023, Kinshasa - People gathered in the meeting room of the Urban Development Unit of Kinshasa starting at 9 am to officially launch the DIY-WaCT project in the presence of the provincial minister of the environment, representatives from UN-Habitat, Sanitation Authority of Kinshasa (Kinshasa), Special Unit for the Protection of the Environment (USPE) and other local waste management officials. For 2 weeks, steps 4 to 7 of the Waste Wise Cities Tool were to be conducted in Kinshasa, and the Waste Flow Diagram was applied. The opening workshop was followed by training on the WaCT for local officials and volunteers that were to conduct the survey alongside



the technical officer from the waste management team of UN-Habitat, and the Urban Development Unit of Kinshasa (CDUK).

During the same week, surveys at Kinshasa's 10 dumpsites started that involved 20 volunteers observing the vehicles' profiles arriving on site. In parallel, extensive interviews were organized with 12 of the major recovery facilities of Kinshasa.

The results showed that in Kinshasa, 10,661 tonnes of municipal solid waste are generated daily, but only 2% is being collected. As a result, SDG 11.6.1 in Kinshasa is 1%. The per capita MSW generation of Kinshasa is 0.75 kg/per/

day, and the city recovery rate stands at 1%.

Following the field survey and the analysis of the results, a workshop was organized on 4 July 2023, to present the survey results and validate them in the presence of the stakeholders. In addition, the workshop helped understand some of the key interventions needed, at the governance level but also on the technical and on-the-ground level.



WaCT application in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

From 5 March to 19 March, UN-Habitat's waste team sent technical support to Abidjan in order to apply the Waste Wise Cities Tool and the Waste Flow Diagram in collaboration with the Ministry of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Cleanliness of Côte d'Ivoire (MINHAS).

During the first week, a kick-off workshop, followed by training on the WaCT was organized. The workshop was attended by all major collection companies, local government officials (mayors of the communes) and other local waste stakeholders. In addition, to understand the waste flow in the city, MINHAS organized an itinerary that included a visit to waste gathering sites, transfer stations and finally a visit to the sanitary landfill site of Kossihouen located right outside Abidjan. The second week was dedicated



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to extensive visits and interviews with major recycling companies operating in Abidjan. In total, 10 recovery facilities were interviewed, one landfill site was visited, and we had a meeting with the association of pre-collectors of Cocody which enabled us to understand the pre-collection stage better.

The implementation results of the Waste Wise Cities Tool in Abidjan showed that

the daily per capita waste generation is 0.95kg. Currently, 6,005 tonnes per day of municipal solid waste is generated, of which 76% is collected and 75% is managed in controlled facilities (SDG 11.6.1). The estimated city recovery rate is 1%. Abidjan's waste management choices are very interesting and could be shared with other cities as a model.

Waste Wise Cities & African Clean Cities Platform Updates

INC-2 in Paris

From 29th May to 2nd June 2023, the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) took place in Paris, to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. A key highlight as Waste Wise Cities and the African Clean Cities Platform is that UN-Habitat made a presentation in the official side event titled "Socio-economic considerations in the transition to circular approaches to plastic, including human rights approaches and inclusion of the informal waste sector". Speakers were from the Government of South Africa, Kenya, UN-Habitat, Grid-Arendal, International Council of Beverages Associations, ITUC and PSI who were selected by the INC Secretariat. The [Summary Report](#) is available.

The Secretariat invites written



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submissions from observers and Members on (a) elements not discussed at INC-2, such as principles and scope of the instrument, and (b) any potential areas for intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups that were established during INC-2, to inform the work of INC-3. More information can be accessed [here](#). In addition, the Secretariat will post any submissions received on the INC website

and prepare a synthesis report of the submissions related to (a).

UN-Habitat through WWC, ACCP and Zero Waste will collect the voices from the member cities to inform its submission.

The third session of INC (INC-3) will be held in November 2023 at the UNEP HQ in Nairobi, Kenya. More information can be found [here](#).

United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA 2)

The second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly was held from 5th to 9th June 2023 in Nairobi, at UN-Habitat's headquarters. The theme of the session was "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of Global crisis."

Waste management is reflected in two resolutions adopted at UNHA2.

► World Cleanup Day:

This resolution was sponsored by Estonia and 14 other member states. It recommends that the General Assembly proclaim the date of 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually from 2024 onwards; and requests the Executive Director to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States.

► Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure:

This resolution was led by the Group of African States. It aims to develop a user-friendly and easily accessible global technical digital platform for urbanization and infrastructure development, and it will be based on voluntary contributions by Member States, partners and stakeholders without donors.



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On 7th of July, a signing ceremony event was held for the project "Waste Wise Nairobi - Korogocho chapter". The project, supported by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and funded through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), is

designed to set up a sustainable waste management system in a low-income area of Nairobi. The 2 years initiative supports the Waste Wise Cities and African Clean Cities platform programs of UN-Habitat.

On 8th of June, a [side event on the World Cleanup Day](#) was co-organised by UN-Habitat together with the Government of

Estonia and Let's Do It World. The event confirmed the importance of collective efforts to catalyse cross-sectoral cooperation for social behavioural change towards cleaner cities and responsible production and consumption patterns as well as to shift towards a circular economy model.

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held from 10th July to 19th July in New York. The theme was "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". During the HLPF, some events were organized in relation to solid waste management.

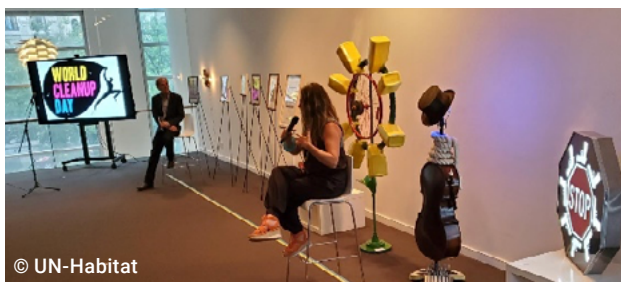
On 12th of July, a side event "Waste Wise Cities: Mobilizing 1000 Cities through cleanup activities to achieve SDG 11.6.1" was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Estonia to UN, Ministry of



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Climate of Estonia, Let's Do It Foundation and UN-Habitat with co-sponsors of Türkiye, Sweden, India, Lebanon, Italy and Botswana. During the event, 'World Cleanup Day' was presented as a tool to accelerate the efforts in achieving SDG 11, promoting the importance of waste management and behavioural change to prevent littering. The event

also delved into the how World Cleanup Day through massive awareness raising can advance and scale-up the 'data to action' approach of UN-Habitat, applying the Waste Wise Cities Tool in 1,000 cities and transforming their solid waste management system moving towards circular economic models by 2030.



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On 14th of July, another side event “Waste to Art - Instrumental Awareness Raising for Waste Wise Cities” was co-organized by the Government of Estonia, Let’s Do It World Foundation and UN-Habitat. The event invited three artists who have dedicated themselves to bringing voice to social injustice and environmental problems through their works turning trash into art by using



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MetroCard and transforming seaborne plastics collected from the beaches into maritime art. They shared their passions for turning trash into treasure and emphasized the role of art which can be instrumental in envisioning the paradigm shift, transcending boundaries, challenging perceptions, and igniting conversations as a powerful medium for raising awareness and inspiring action.

Moreover, on 15th of July, a cleanup event was co-organized by the Government of Estonia, Let’s Do It World Foundation and National CleanUp Day USA at Hunters Point on Long Island City. This movement of the cleanup activity reminded us of the importance of taking small steps to create a cleaner and greener future, promoting responsible waste management and inspiring others to join in.

Join the movement for clean planet! – World Cleanup Day 2023

This year’s [World Cleanup Day](#) will be organised on 16th September 2023 and the “World Cleanup Day unites millions of volunteers, governments and organisations in 191 countries to tackle the global waste problem and build up the new and sustainable world.” To make a collective effort to clean up our cities, communities, and neighbouring spaces, we count on your positive participation!

Check our WWC and ACCP members’ great cleanup works made last year from [here!](#)

The cleanup event held at Hunters Point on Long Island City on 15th of July during the HLPF was a dry run for a series of World Cleanup Day events in New York on 15th and 16th of September 2023 on the occasion of the [SDG Summit](#).



UN Secretary General ‘s Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste

On 26th of July, the Pre-Meeting Introductions of the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Zero Waste was held online for the Advisory Board Members to introduce themselves and familiarize with the Board mandated. Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, First Lady of Türkiye, serves as the chairperson of

the Board and Mr. Jose Manuel Moller, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Algramo, as the deputy chairperson. The members were selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience and expertise and with due regard to gender balance and equitable geographic representation.

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives through the dissemination of best practices and success stories, as direct contribution to the implementation of [United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/161](#).



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The first in-person Advisory Board meeting will be held later this year.

Prior to the meeting, a signing ceremony was organized in Türkiye to sign a contribution agreement between the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye and UN-Habitat, that will support the Secretariat work provided by UN-Habitat and UNEP to the Advisory Board.

13th Social Business Day 2023

On the 27 - 28th of July, the 13th Social Business Day was held in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Social Business Day is an annual global gathering organised by the Yunus Centre to celebrate and share the accumulated experiences of Social Business leaders and entrepreneurs spearheading our path to a sustainable and just future from all corners of the globe. The conference focused on the theme “War, Peace and Economics: Future of Human Beings.”

The conference was attended by 700 delegates from 31 countries around the world, including Japan, China, Philippines, Nepal, Colombo, India, Italy, and Brazil. Additionally, the conference brought 120 prominent speakers worldwide, such as Mahathir Mohamad, Former Prime Minister of Malaysia; José Ramos-Horta, President of Timor-Leste; Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic



Committee; Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil.

On the 27th of July, the video message from Mrs. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, was showcased

in the opening remarks emphasizing that social business is a vital tool for creating a just and sustainable circular economy, addressing waste challenges, empowering marginalized communities, and inspiring positive global change.

Call to Action

- Share with us your good practices of Sustainable MSWM financing, zero waste practices, other innovative solutions related to sustainable MSW and circular economy!
- Implement effective and financially viable MSWM strategies in your cities!
- Become an ACCP and/or Waste Wise Cities [member](#) or [affiliate](#) and share your stories with us!
- Visit our website to get more details on our projects in SWM financing!
- Join us on the [World Cleanup Day in September 2023!](#)