

WASTE WISE CITIES



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Waste Wise Cities Newsletter #6

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African Clean Cities Platform: supporting African cities for evidence-based policy making for waste management

The [African Clean Cities Platform](#) (ACCP), founded by the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the City of Yokohama, UN Environment and UN-Habitat in 2017 is working to create clean and healthy cities in Africa. What started as a small side event in TICAD 6 (6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development) in 2016 with representatives from 9 African cities, has now grown to a platform with 65 cities and 37 countries. A number of trainings were co-organized between partners, one of them on landfill management using the Fukuoka method, it was held at the Koshe Dumpsite in Addis Ababa, where UN-Habitat had been rehabilitating the collapsed dumpsite. ACCP also supported the pilot testing of the Waste Wise Cities Tool in Nairobi, providing fact-based waste data for Nairobi City County Government (see more in the next story).

As a result of 2nd ACCP general meeting, concurrently held with the TICAD 7 in August 2019, the "Yokohama Action Guidance" was adopted which stipulates the future direction and concrete activities such as strengthening the ACCP secretariat function in Africa. For the next years, the ACCP secretariat will be hosted by UN-Habitat, providing opportunities for capacity building and co-creation of knowledge on safe disposal of waste using the Fukuoka method. Furthermore, in close collaboration with

Waste Wise Cities such as the tool application, investment cases will be developed and presented to donors at TICAD 8 in Tunisia in 2022.

UN-Habitat invites all Waste Wise Cities members in Africa to join ACCP. Please send a Letter of Intent to wastewisecities@un.org



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From data to action – the story of Nairobi, Kenya

ACCP supported the pilot testing of the Waste Wise Cities Tool in Nairobi, Kenya. As reported in [our last newsletter](#), the data was collected in April and May 2019 and a stakeholder workshop conducted in July. The stakeholder workshop identified the following key intervention areas:

- Reduce waste generation
- Expand waste collection services
- Enhance recycling (especially of organic waste)
- Improve the disposal site (Dandora)

The survey with UN-Habitat was well received considering that the Nairobi City County Government had been relying





Reasons for ineffective waste management – results of our needs assessment

UN-Habitat conducted a needs assessment study among its Waste Wise Cities member cities. The survey was answered by employees working with the local government or the city's waste management system in all parts of the world. Today, we want to share with you some of our findings regarding reasons for ineffective waste management.

"Lack of financial resources" is the number one answer of participants to the question why they cannot effectively deliver their work. However, taking a closer look at each region, the hindrances related to finance vary, according to the level of waste management:

- North American- Inadequate funding for infrastructure and resources;
- Latin America & the Caribbean- lack of financial resources for infrastructure
- Europe-Lack of financial incentives and financial resources to make it more effective;
- Asia and the Pacific-Un-availability of investments and in-sufficient financials for waste
- Africa-Lack of financial resources for procurement and maintenance.

Further common reasons for ineffective waste management in all regions include lack of residents' awareness and participation, as well as political hindrances, such as lack of political commitment, policies and coordination

on a study done with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) back in 2010. Although this study was very elaborate and comprehensive, we have had to use the recommended projections for subsequent years. The JICA 2010 survey updated at that time the Integrated Solid Waste Management Master (ISWM) Plan for the City. However, due to a myriad of challenges most of the components have not been implemented.

With the national census conducted in 2019, the UN-Habitat survey was timely to update the City's waste management database. The newly established [Nairobi Metropolitan Services](#) is now developing a Solid Waste Management Action Plan 2020-2022 based on these results. For this reason, a national multi-agency team saw it necessary to radically change the current linear waste management approach to a circular model where maximum value is extracted from waste. Diverse stakeholders working with the multi-agency team conceptualized the two-year Action Plan considering the ISWM components. The areas of focus are as listed below:

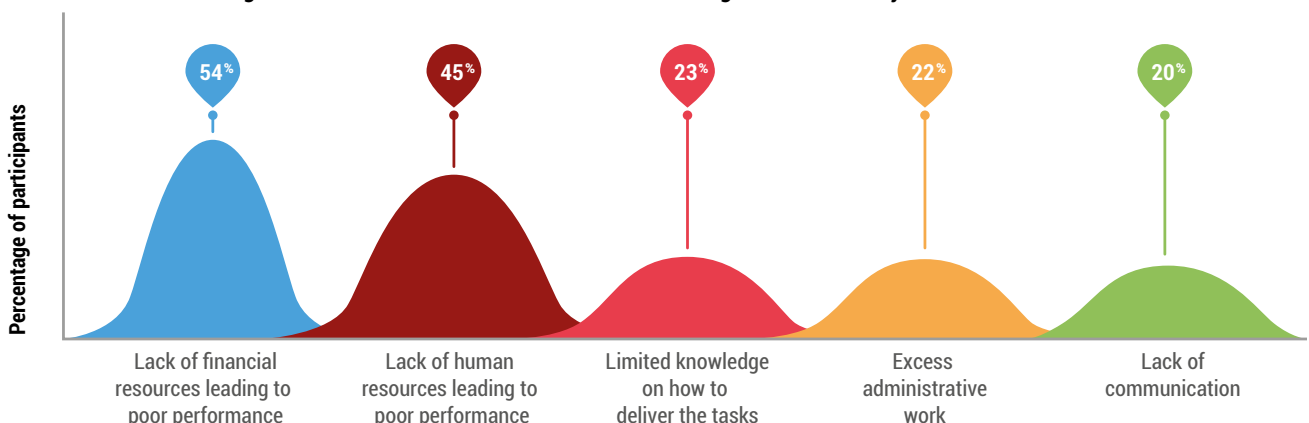
- Education and public awareness
- Introduction of waste separation at source
- Upgrading waste collection and transportation logistics
- Investing in waste recovery and final disposal
- Strengthening governance and finance
- Sustainable production for waste prevention



Patricia Akinyi K'Omudho
Environment Information Officer,
Nairobi Metropolitan Services

Indeed, Nairobi benefits from the data and information on solid waste. This needs to be updated annually for efficiency and effectiveness.

The five most frustrating themes for stakeholders to deliver waste management effectively





Get to know our Affiliates

Statewide Waste and Environmental Education (SWEEP) Foundation, Nigeria

WASTE IN THE CITY CAMPAIGN IS COMMITTED TO SOLVING THE NATIONAL PLASTIC POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

Here are the statistics:

- Lagos generates 15,000 metric tonnes of waste daily
- 15% of these wastes are plastic
- 30% of these plastics are recyclable
- Only 9% of plastic waste are being recycled
- 91% of all our plastic waste find their way into our oceans, drainages and landfills.

The solution lies in massive nationwide WASTE IN THE CITY campaign calling on the Government, plastic producers and the citizens to pursue an integrated plastic waste control program.

We are setting up structures, partnerships and collaborations for a nationwide extended responsibility in waste management:

- Extended Government Responsibility
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Extended Citizens Responsibility

This is a call to action, join WASTE IN THE CITY in demanding that corporations act to REVEAL their plastic footprint, REDUCE the plastic they produce, and REINVENT their packaging to be sustainable.

Let's connect through Twitter - @SWEEPFoundation - and [Facebook](#)

Container Based Sanitation: harnessing the wealth of sanitation waste in cities

Container based sanitation (CBS) is a low-cost sanitation option particularly suited to densely-populated urban neighborhoods that provides rich opportunities to harness the wealth of human waste reuse possibilities. As a service that provides toilets that collect human excreta in sealable, removable containers which are collected and replaced on a regular basis and transported to treatment facilities when full, it avoids contamination of the physical and natural environment, supports sustainable waste management and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with other forms of urban sanitation.

Moreover, as CBS toilets produce less diluted or decomposed waste, this is ideal for reuse because it has not been mixed with graywater in sewers or stored in a pit for extended periods of time. As a result, fecal waste from CBS systems often produces higher quality reuse products. CBS providers from Haiti and Guatemala to Kenya and Madagascar, are harnessing this by producing a range of reuse products, including biochar, biomass and biogas fuels, fertilizer, or animal feed. [Find out more](#)

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 soon to be updated Waste Wise Cities website (after the update)?
- Implement the Waste Wise Cities Tool?
- 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!



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Waste Wise Cities Challenge

On 15th of July we had a virtual signing ceremony for the Waste Wise Cities Challenge. 11 cities were able to participate, representing 8 twins. Participants included the mayors of Ainab (Lebanon), Jambi (Indonesia), Kushtia (Bangladesh) and Ratnapura (Sri Lanka), as well as the additional commissioner of Indore (India). The event was kicked off with a video message from Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, followed by Statements from each participating city. Andre Dzikus, Chief of Urban Basic Services Section concluded the ceremony.

[Read more](#)

Celebrating World Environmental Day 2020 with UNESCO

As you may remember, UN-Habitat has joined the UNESCO [Green Academies](#) and [Plastic Initiative](#). On the occasion of the World Environment Day 2020, UNESCO organized an event dedicated to our planet and to kick off the Plastic Initiative Partnership. The event was attended by UN-Habitat, [UNEP](#), [UN-ESCAP](#), [SEAMEO](#), the [Asian Institute of Technology](#), as well the [Thai National Science Museum](#). The day was an opportunity to discuss waste global crisis and reiterate the commitment of the partners to tackle plastic waste and marine pollution. If you have missed the event, you can watch it online (there are a [12 minute](#) and [90 minute](#) version).

Joining ISWA and ICLEI webinars

Waste Wise Cities Team was invited as speakers at two events on waste, climate and the environment, organized by our partners [International Solid Waste Association \(ISWA\)](#) and [Local Governments for Sustainability \(ICLEI\)](#).

The ICLEI webinar (16th July 2020), Sustainable Resources Management and Local Environmental Quality, was organized under the Urban LEDS project that uses multilevel actions to accelerate low emission development and climate resilience across more than 60 cities worldwide. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat.

The ISWA webinar, Circular and Low Carbon Cities, was part of the 3rd ISWA Young Professional Group Online Conference, Transition to a Circular Economy: Innovation and sustainability in waste management systems, held on 17th and 18th July. If you have missed it, check it out [here!](#)



Tackling plastic waste in the environment with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste

[The Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#) and UN-Habitat entered into a [strategic partnership](#) to implement solutions towards a circular economy, creating business and livelihood opportunities while enhancing resource recovery.

The partnership, through the Waste Wise Cities programme, will assist cities in Kenya, Ethiopia and India to assess their waste management status and develop project proposals. This project will help target cities to map waste flows, assess potential plastic leakage from waste management systems and identify short- and long-term pathways to increase the amount of plastic waste collected, recycled and recovered.

The Alliance to End Plastic Waste is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together people, businesses, governments



and organisations to find new ways to rethink, recover, and recycle plastic waste to help solve the magnitude of eight million tons of plastic

waste entering our oceans every year. Through programmes and partnerships, the Alliance is focused on solutions in four core areas: infrastructure, innovation, education and clean up. The Alliance leads in thought and actions that prove the investment value of plastic waste to private investors, development banks, and governments. As of June 2020, the Alliance has 47 members - companies located across the Americas, Europe, Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

On July 28th, the Alliance to End Plastic Waste will organise a fireside chat with its CEO, Jacob Duer and UN-Habitat Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif.



Waste Wise Education

In April, we called for Innovative Educational Programmes on Waste Management. We would like to thank everyone who submitted initiatives, programmes and activities being implemented in different parts of the world. 19 submissions were finally selected based on the criteria of Innovation, Education, and Replicability/Scalability. You find an overview of all of them on [our website](#).

Here we share our favorite: Amal's Green School Program by [Amal for Life](#). The program reaches out to progressive public and private schools and universities with the aim of raising awareness, changing the outlook and bringing about behaviour change on environment, hygiene and waste management for cleaner and greener cities in line with Pakistan's flagship initiative "Clean Green Pakistan". It also provides green school certification. Students are encouraged to continue segregation and cleaning activities by earning green credits. The credits can be exchanged for recyclable products made by skilled women in the community. Also, the initiative is completely self-sustainable as the cost of Amal operations is mainly met through recycling of dry waste.





Information – Trashpocket

Cigarette butts poisoning, land, water and our environment in general have been an environmental problem for a long time. Today we know the filters contain plastic and toxic substances that leak into the ground if not collected and taken care of in a sustainable way. This calls for both the individual responsibility of the smoker to collect the cigarette butts and requires initiatives to responsibly take care of them through recycling. As a response, [Trashpocket](#) is now starting a collaboration with [Let's Do It India](#) and [Wasted Solutions](#) in India to raise awareness of the public on this issue and promote solutions. Providing a reusable biodegradable pocket ashtray, Trashpocket, is the first step, followed by supporting initiatives collecting the cigarette butts and recycling them. Reaching out to municipalities, the state and the government, private sector and NGO's will be of vital importance for making this project a success and all are invited to help make a difference!

Announcement: Expression of interest for Design of Online Courses

UN-Habitat is seeking a partner for the content development of its waste management online courses. The implementing partner will be working closely with the Waste Wise Cities Team to deliver the task. Not for profit organizations, governments or public institutions, universities or research institutions can apply until 10th August 2020. UN-Habitat will provide funds to the tune of USD 40,000 based on delivery of outputs for this work. [Find out more.](#)

Call to Action

- Tell someone, about a good thing you have done!
- Share your story with us, so others can learn from you!
- Encourage organisations to become Affiliates of Waste Wise Cities!
- Convince your city to become a Waste Wise Cities member, and learn from others

More

Waste Pickers as part of the 'popular economy' in Argentina: the case of the Cooperativa de Recuperadores Urbanos de Tandil (Buenos Aires)

- In Argentina, most cities have historically had waste pickers called cartoneros/as. In 2002, after an economic crisis, an organisation process which resulted in an advanced inclusion of waste pickers in the formal solid waste management system took place in some big cities.
- However, in medium and small cities this formalisation did not start until the development of an alliance between the waste pickers' movement (MTE) and other sectors of what is called the popular economy (PE). The PE refers to subsistence activities where means of production are detained, exploited and in many cases created by workers, whose workforce is the most important component of value creation. It includes waste pickers, ambulant vendors, artisans, domestic workers, labourers in recovered factories, etc.
- One of the main achievements of this alliance was the approval by the national Congress of a Complementary Social Salary for workers of the PE, which is half the national minimum wage. This tool, combined with the work of social organizations, served as a catalyser for the formation of waste pickers cooperatives.
- In Tandil City, the [Cooperativa de Recuperadores Urbanos](#) is an example of this process. Its formation allowed the waste pickers access to better selling prices and improved working conditions. With the support of the local university and other institutions ([Mesa GRSU](#)), they can process more categories and higher amounts of recycling materials than before. Moreover, they are prepared to work with large waste generators if supported by the local government. This is part of their current struggle. [Read more](#)

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