

## Call for Expressions of Interest to support Waste Wise Cities

### About Waste Wise Cities

UN-Habitat's *Waste Wise Cities* global programme was jointly launched by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director UN-Habitat, and His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, on World Habitat Day 2018. The programme aims to address the global waste crisis, including plastic pollution, through better waste management and resource efficiency in cities. Since its launch, 200 cities and local governments from around the world have joined by embracing the following twelve key principles:



Sustainable solid waste management is essential for achieving SDG 11: *Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*, and contributes to SDG 1, *No Poverty*; SDG 6, *Clean Water and Sanitation*; SDG 12 *Responsible Consumption and Production*; SDG 14, *Life below Water*.

*Waste Wise Cities* contributes to each of the 'Domains of Change' of UN-Habitat's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, namely: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum; Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

In addition to cities and local governments, Waste Wise Cities is supported by a diverse and growing number of 'Waste Wise Cities Affiliates'. Currently, more than forty (40) such Affiliates, from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions are collaborating with UN-Habitat to tackle the global solid waste crisis and promote the Waste Wise Cities Agenda. More information is available in Annex 1.

### Supporting Call for Waste Wise Cities

The Waste Wise Cities Programme is managed by the Urban Basic Services Section in the Global Solutions Division of UN-Habitat. It is an extra-budgetary programme of UN-Habitat and relies exclusively on contributions from donors and partners. Currently, the programme is being implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ministry of Environment Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Vanke Foundation, and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. Germany, Italy and Japan have also contributed key human resources through the deployment of staff for implementation of UN-Habitat's waste management programme.

**UN-Habitat is calling for Expressions of Interest to support Waste Wise Cities** for the 2022-2026 period to implement key aspects of its work including capacity building and knowledge sharing; monitoring and research; publishing reports and guidance materials, undertaking advocacy and communications activities and the hosting of global events.

### *Possible Support Modalities*

In order to allow for a wide range of potential collaboration and support, Waste Wise Cities invites Expressions of Interest for different modalities of support as outlined below:

- **Waste Wise Cities Partner:** Any National or local government, foundation, non-governmental organisation, public and private actor or similar organisation can be a *Waste Wise Cities Partner* by committing to provide support to Waste Wise Cities' programme activities. The Waste Wise Cities Partner can suggest priorities for support, in line with UN Habitat's strategic plan and work programme. The Waste Wise Cities Partner can also choose to support either a Regional or Thematic Hub (see below).
- **Regional Hub:** National governments of UN member states or other public entities with endorsement from their national governments can choose to support the hosting of a Waste Wise Cities Regional Hub in their country or another country. These hubs are aligned with the regional structure of UN Habitat and address all areas of Waste Wise Cities' work in the host country and the respective region in close collaboration with the Solid Waste Management Team at UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and other Waste Wise Cities Hubs around the world. Regional Hubs will thus enable support adjusted to local and regional priorities.
- **Thematic Hub:** National governments of UN member states or other public entities with endorsement from national governments can also choose to support the hosting of a Waste Wise Cities Thematic Hub in their country or in another country. These hubs will align with the regional structure of UN-Habitat and could cover a specific aspect of Waste Wise Cities' thematic work that the entity may wish to focus on, such as serving as an observatory monitoring solid waste data and trends, a centre of excellence on the management of plastic or e-waste, a capacity development and technical hub for waste recycling and reuse or safe waste disposal. Activities will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Solid Waste Management Team at UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and other Waste Wise Cities Hubs around the world. Thematic Hubs will thus enable more enhanced leadership in knowledge generation and sharing on specific waste topics.

After the submission of Expressions of Interest, eligible candidates will receive a detailed information on the envisaged collaboration. Eligibility requirements and selection criteria are set out below.

### *Benefits to supporters*

Interested parties may derive the following benefits in supporting the Waste Wise Cities programme:

- **Contribute to tangible local results and global benefits around the world** – *Waste Wise Cities* will support cities in improving their waste management. It is anticipated that over half a billion people across the world will benefit. In addition, Waste Wise Cities will help cities and local governments make significant contributions to the SDGs 1, 6, 11, 12, 14 and 17 as well as the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- **Global Recognition** for playing a leading role in a multilateral initiative aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with a specific focus on solid waste management. A regional or thematic hub may attract international visitors, experts and development partners to the hosting city and country and provide opportunities to showcase local good practices.
- **Share experiences and learn from others** – *Waste Wise Cities* facilitates the exchange of knowledge and good practices by showcasing sound solid waste management practices and catalysing city-to-city partnerships. Supporting organisations will thus have the opportunity to learn from others.

- **Create opportunities for collaboration** – contributing to *Waste Wise Cities* offers opportunities for the supporter to collaborate with local governments, universities, development agencies and private sector across the world through the Waste Wise Network and events including the World Urban Forum organised by UN-Habitat every two years.

### Eligibility

Support Modality	Eligibility Requirements
<b>Waste Wise Cities Partner</b>	All UN Member states, observers, UN specialised agencies, other international and intergovernmental organisations, foundations, non-governmental organisations, other public and private actors <sup>1</sup>
<b>Regional and Thematic Hub</b>	Any UN member state or public entity; As part of the application a letter of endorsement from the national government needs be provided. <sup>2</sup>

### Requirements and Selection Criteria

Supporting proposals shall include the following forms of support:

Support Modality	Support and Selection Criteria
<b>Waste Wise Cities Partner</b>	<b>On an annual basis:</b> A contribution of at least USD 200,000 annually for a minimum of 5 years <sup>3</sup>
<b>Regional and Thematic Hub</b>	<b>On an annual basis:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A contribution ranging between USD 280,000 and USD 800,000 annually for a minimum of 5 years depending on the range of activities and location of the office<sup>3</sup></li> <li>2. Support for at least 2 experts or National Professional Officers/ UN Volunteers</li> <li>3. Serviced office space with utilities and internet connectivity suitable for 3-8 staff compliant with UN safety requirements. (Note: supporting organisations can provide financial resources or in-kind contribution in the form of serviced office space or utilities)</li> </ol> <b>One time:</b> A contribution to the assignment costs of staff to the duty station
<b>All</b>	<b>Optional:</b> Support the hosting of a global or regional Waste Wise Cities Congress, in kind or financially

**A combination of these supporting modalities is also possible, as well as a joint proposal.**

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules, ST/SGB/2013/4, Article III. and the Staff regulations and Rules ST/SGB/2018/1, UN-Habitat has the authority to accept voluntary contributions, gifts and donations, (in-cash or in-kind) from external actors including Member States, non-member States but which are party to the statute of the International Court of Justice or Treaty Bodies, specialised agencies, other international and intergovernmental organisations, foundations, non-governmental organisations, other public and private actors, provided the purpose of which the contribution is made are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the organisation.

<sup>2</sup> The government of the selected supporter(s) will enter into a Host Country Agreement with UN-Habitat to accord Privileges and Immunities to the UN Staff.

<sup>3</sup> Information on the proposed use of the cash contribution to UN-Habitat will be provided as part of the bidding proposal

### Process

The selection process will be undertaken by an independent selection committee appointed by UN-Habitat, according to the following timeline:

08 Jul 21	UN-Habitat launches the call for Expressions of Interest to all UN member states, including, observers, UN specialized agencies, other international and intergovernmental organizations, foundations, non-governmental organizations, other public and private actors. The call will also be announced on the UN-Habitat website.
31 Aug 21	Deadline for interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest indicating their intention to submit a supporting proposal
14 Sep 21	Based on Expressions of Interest received, UN-Habitat invites detailed proposals for supporting Waste Wise Cities
Sep - Nov 21	Period when UN-Habitat responds to queries from recipients of the call for proposals
16 Nov 21	Deadline for UN-Habitat to receive full supporting proposals from interested parties
16 - 30 Nov 21	Review and Assessment of submitted full proposals by the selection committee
30 Nov 21	Announcement of the successful candidate(s)
Dec 21 - Feb 22	Signing of Contribution and/or Host Country Agreements or other suitable legal instrument
from Mar 22	In case of Regional or Thematic Hubs, establishment of the Waste Wise Cities office(s) at selected host location(s)

### Submitting Expressions of Interest

A party wishing to express its interest to support Waste Wise Cities must submit an official letter (on letterhead with signature, addressed to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, Mme. Maimunah Mohd Sharif) **by 31 August 2021**, indicating its interest, how they meet the Supporting Requirements and the support modality they wish to pursue.

Those who have submitted Expressions of Interest will then be contacted and provided with instructions, for preparing a final supporting proposal for review by the Selection Committee, and a package of information on the Waste Wise Cities programme.

**All Expressions of Interest, or other enquires, must be submitted to [wastewisecities@un.org](mailto:wastewisecities@un.org) with the header “Support for Waste Wise Cities”, within the above stated deadlines.**

### Further Information

Further information on Waste Wise Cities can be found:

- In Annex 1 and
- under <https://unhabitat.org/waste-wise-cities>

**We look forward to receiving your proposals for support to this worthwhile global programme.**

## Annex 1: UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities programme: brief description

### Background

Waste Management is an issue that affects everyone. The amount of individual waste production grows daily, putting a heavy cost burden on local governments. Poor waste collection and disposal results in uncontrolled dump sites and waste burning, leading to polluted air and water. Furthermore, it is the main contributor to marine litter pollution. On the other side, waste management offers great opportunities: resource recovery lessens the dependency on resource imports; enhanced livelihoods and income for the urban poor through new business models; improved quality of life leading to an increase in investment, to just name a few. Decreased generation of waste, improved municipal solid waste collection and controlled management, increased recycling of suitable materials and enhanced management of hazardous waste can help cities become Waste Wise Cities. All cities regardless of their size and financial capacity can improve upon the current state of their waste management.

### Waste Wise Cities objectives and key action areas of intervention

Waste Wise Cities aims to enhance waste management and resource recovery in the world's cities to contribute to improved public and environmental health; innovative and sustainable financing; inclusive, safe, clean and sustainable cities; more green jobs and enhanced business opportunities; vibrant local circular economies; and a better quality of life. To reach these goals intermediate objectives are to be achieved, including waste generation must be decreased, waste collection and management have to be improved, the recycling of suitable materials needs to be increased and hazardous waste must be managed more effectively (please see *Waste Wise Cities Theory of Change* attached).

Waste Wise Cities aims to reach its goals through activities in its four Action Areas:



- To strengthen the knowledge, technical capacity and governance for waste management in local authorities around the world through trainings and exchanges in the Waste Wise Cities network, which includes cities and municipalities, NGOs, private sector, academia, UN Agencies, etc.;
- To improve data for decision making and localize SDGs through capacity development for monitoring of waste related SDG indicators and waste data in general;
- To raise awareness for sustainable resource and waste management globally through advocacy for and education on integrated sustainable waste management systems, including the 5Rs
- To increase the global investments as well as the commitment (internationally, nationally and locally) to waste management improvements, including ensuring financial sustainability of waste management systems through support in developing bankable projects as well as train on financial aspects of waste management, and building partnerships.

## Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)

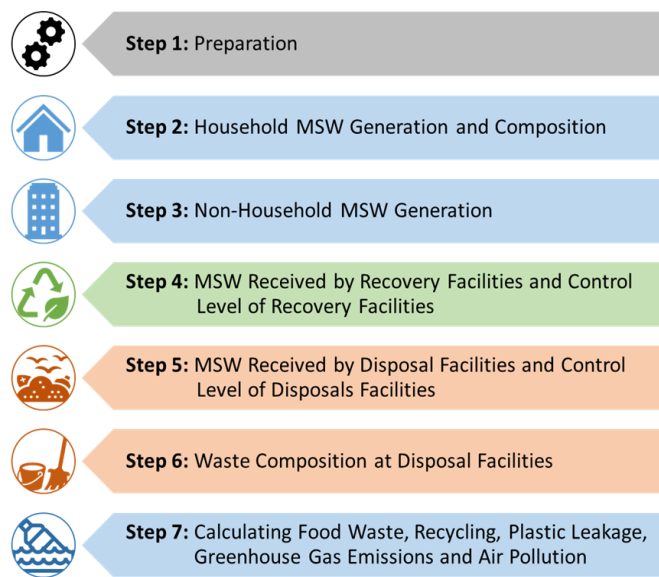
Assessing and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1 “*Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated, by the city*” provides critical information for cities and countries to establish better waste and resource management strategies. So far, reliable data and information on municipal solid waste generation and management is lacking globally, especially in low- and middle-income country cities. Where data exists, it is often generated based on international comparisons, without having been validated in the local context.

This paucity of evidence-based data hinders the development of waste management strategies and constrains investment decision-making in infrastructure and service expansion, leading in many countries to insufficient or absent municipal solid waste management services. Poor municipal solid waste management collection and management trigger severe threats to public health and pollute air and water. Furthermore, uncollected and mismanaged waste is the main source of marine plastic pollution.

The WaCT is an assessment and planning tool that cities apply to evaluate their municipal solid waste management performance and use the results for sustainable waste management strategy and policy planning.

### Case study: Waste Wise Nairobi

In 2018, Nairobi, Kenya, joined Waste Wise Cities. In 2019, the Waste Wise Cities Tool was applied, and a stakeholder workshop was held. The outcomes of the tool and workshop lead to the development of the *Nairobi City County Sustainable Waste Management Action Plan (2020 –2022)*, a waste management action plan for the city of Nairobi. The plan focuses on 6 areas: introduction of waste segregation at source, enhancing logistic and transport, investing in recovery and disposal facilities, education and public awareness, strengthening governance, institution and financing, intervening in sustainable production for waste prevention. The plan is currently under implementation. Moreover, UN-Habitat is supporting Nairobi to develop project proposals for mobilization of funds and further implementation of the action plan.



The WaCT consists of seven steps that guide cities on how to collect data on municipal solid waste generated, collected, and managed in controlled facilities. The WaCT provides a household survey guide for estimating total municipal solid waste generation, a questionnaire to investigate the municipal solid waste recovery chain and criteria to check the environmental control level of waste management facilities in the city. In the last step onward linkages to other Sustainable Development Goal indicators and plastic leakages assessment are elaborated.



Waste Wise Cities' Theory of Change

