

# Newsletter #17

March 2023 - Informal waste and recovery



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## Challenges and Opportunities of Informal Waste Collection and Recycling

Informal waste and recycling operators are major contributors to the waste value chain and pose an important form of livelihood.

According to estimates, 1-2% of the population in many low- and middle-income countries work in the informal waste management business, which mostly employs urban poor people<sup>1</sup>. In many cities, the informal waste economy is a value chain of workers that contributes greatly to waste management, and many scavenge landfills to obtain recyclables. Numerous studies indicate that the informal waste and recycling sector contributes to resource conservation by increasing the effectiveness of recycling<sup>2</sup>. In Figure 1, the actors in the informal plastic recovery chain are exemplary for the increasing vulnerability of waste pickers in general.

Around 15 million individuals worldwide participate in informal trash recycling programmes in addition to formal waste recycling programmes, mostly for the recycling of plastics, metals, glass,

and paper. Increasingly, studies look at new public health issues related to the informal economy, particularly in emerging countries. Hence, even though informal recyclers help with waste recycling and reuse, the comparatively rudimentary procedures they utilise, and poor secondary pollutant management worsen air, soil, and water pollution. Even worse, a lack of adequate occupational health standards exposes informal waste workers to a variety of contaminants, accidents, dermatological and respiratory disorders, infections, and other major health problems that lower life expectancy. While addressing these critical health and environmental issues, integration of the informal sector with its official counterparts might enhance waste management and livelihood issues.

There is consensus that the way the world now manufactures, uses, and discards plastics is unsustainable and may go beyond the limits of the planet. According to the worldwide estimate for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 11.6.1 and the related plastic emissions, there were 2.4 billion tonnes

of municipal solid trash produced by the world's population in 2018, of which 82% was collected and 55% was handled in facilities under control (see Figure 2). This indicates that the ecosystem is being significantly impacted by the 432 million tonnes and 1.08 billion tonnes of municipal solid trash that are not collected or are managed in unregulated facilities, such as open dumpsites.

Particularly in emerging countries, fast population expansion has resulted in an extraordinary rise in waste production. For instance, only the yearly worldwide waste from waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) has gone from 33.8 million to 49.8 million tonnes from 2010 to 2018<sup>3</sup>. Even with incineration and other waste treatment methods, landfills continue to be the most popular method of waste disposal in developing countries. These countries typically lack the financing necessary for proper waste management, and the adoption of more cutting-edge waste treatment technology is weak. Without adequate management, many landfills pose major risks, as demonstrated by the landslide in Shenzhen, China in 2015.



Figure 1: Conceptual Diagram of IWRS actors in the informal plastic recovery chain, including their degree of vulnerability, as well as material specialisation and formality, UN-Habitat, 2022

1. [https://pennur.upenn.edu/uploads/media/03\\_Kanekal.pdf](https://pennur.upenn.edu/uploads/media/03_Kanekal.pdf)

3. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/195312457.pdf>

2. Chaturvedi, Ashish; Vijayalakshmi, Koneru and Nijhawan, Saksham. 2015. "Scenarios of Waste and Resource Management: for Cities in India and Elsewhere". Institute of Development Studies, UK.

Due to poor collection services and solid waste management, an estimated 60 million tonnes of plastic per year from the municipal solid waste stream damage the environment, especially aquatic bodies. Without the **informal waste and recovery industry (IWRS)**,

which considerably improves solid waste management by gathering, sorting, processing, and recovering plastic and other wasted items globally, this figure would be even higher. This calls for the **just transition of the IWRS** to be fair, inclusive, and equitable, generating and

preserving decent work opportunities in a way that leaves no one behind. Only when individuals who are impacted can contribute their ideas, expertise, and expectations to the decision-making process will solutions be long-lasting.

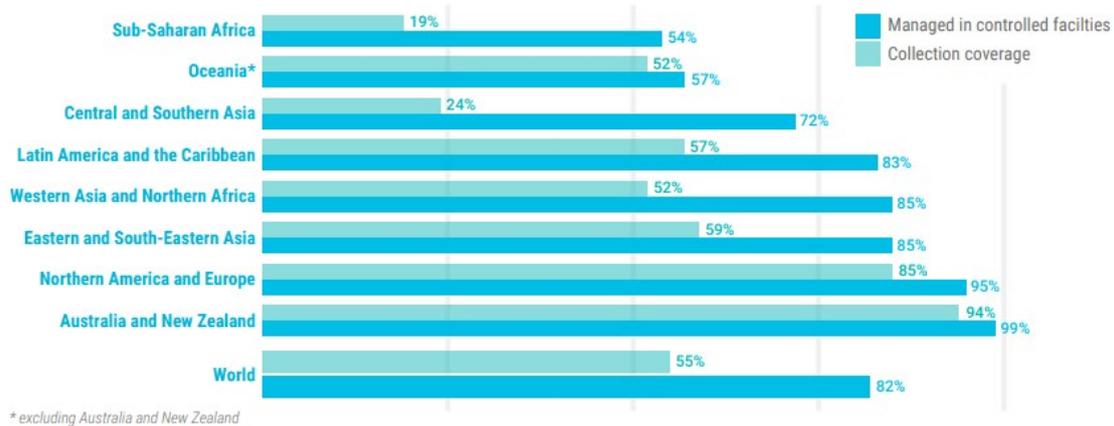


Figure 2: Global estimate of SGD Indicator 11.6.1 by UN-Habitat, UN-Habitat, 2022

## Launch of Report: Leaving no one Behind



In November 2022, the [report](#) "Leaving no one behind" on IWRS was launched at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, in the presence of the Swedish Crown Princess and the Norwegian Crown Prince (see picture below).

The report thematises how a global instrument to end plastic pollution can enable a just transition for the people informally collecting and recovering waste. A just transition demands meaningful participation of IWRS stakeholders in

negotiations and implementation, as the outcomes will directly affect their livelihoods and are key in aligning the outcomes with the targets of SDG 8 – labour rights, safe and secure working environments, productive employment, decent work and equal pay for work of equal value. Thus, the needs of those disproportionately affected by pollution around the globe must be prioritised in a just and sustainable transition toward ending plastic pollution. The report identifies experiences and lessons learned from Multilateral Environmental Agreements with specific regard to informality and inclusion of indigenous knowledge to identify mechanisms that facilitate a just transition of the IWRS. Possibilities to address the IWRS as a global instrument to end plastic pollution include:

1. specifically addressing the IWRS in a dedicated provision or article,
2. considering the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) by all Parties that particularly address the IWRS,
3. establishing a working group

dedicated to a just transition of the IWRS,

4. delineating worst practices and building capacity towards environmentally and socially sound management of waste, rather than banning or undermining IWRS activities,
5. providing Parties from developing countries and economies in transition with support in implementing their obligations, including capacity building and financial resources to conduct baseline assessments and develop and implement NAPs,
6. including a glossary of key terms and concepts relevant to the just transition of the IWRS developed with crucial actors, and
7. Integration into formal waste management systems.

Although there is no one-size-fits-all solution, as circumstances and people involved in the process differ the report concludes by stating that it is necessary to monitor a fair transition of the IWRS using established and jointly determined indicators, definitions, and techniques. The IWRS scale and operations worldwide are currently poorly understood and lacking in data. To close knowledge gaps regarding the role of the IWRS, the scope of current networks and trade relations, socio-economic factors, and interconnections with the formal sector need to be determined. Finally, a global instrument to end plastic pollution may include provisions for parties to conduct participatory baseline assessments.



Figure 3 Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden; Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway at the launch event for the report, November 2022.

## Case Studies

### Decent work in the informal waste and recycling sector

*This article is contributed by Mr. Yasuhiko Kamakura, Specialist in chemical industries, basic metals and transport equipment manufacturing at International Labour Organization (ILO).*

Why does the informal waste and recycling sector matter to the ILO? Because we are concerned about inequalities in the sector. In many countries, municipalities are responsible for waste management and plastic recycling. However, not all plastics can be recycled safely. Leaked plastics are frequently collected by informal waste and recycling workers. Their role is significant around the world. In some communities, these workers provide the only form of municipal waste collection and recycling, but they are still a vulnerable population and often found in lower-income countries. Informal workers have limited alternative income-generating opportunities. They are frequently rural workers, people living in poverty, migrants, refugees, single parents, people with disabilities, indigenous and tribal people, and from other disadvantaged groups.

These workers suffer from poor working conditions. They also generally lack access to public social security schemes, such as health care, unemployment insurance, individual retirement accounts, and pension plans. The ILO calls this inhumane situation a 'decent work deficit'.

So, how does the ILO address decent work deficits in the sector? Our response can be summed up as a call for a Just Transition. A Just Transition means greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work

opportunities, and leaving no one behind. A Just Transition involves maximizing social and economic opportunities of climate action, while minimizing and carefully managing any challenges, including through effective [social dialogue](#) among all groups impacted, and respect for the ILO's international labour standards. International labour standards are a comprehensive system of instruments on work and social policy, backed by a supervisory system designed to address all sorts of issues in their application at the national level. In this regard, the ILO Declaration on



Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is particularly important. The Declaration sets out five basic human rights in the world of work:

- a) freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- b) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- c) the effective abolition of child labour;
- d) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and
- e) a safe and healthy working environment.

The ILO's 2018 report *Greening with Jobs* has estimated that a net total of 7 to 8 million new jobs could be created by 2030 in a circular economy. The ILO conducts

national green jobs assessments. Our national green jobs assessments show that many green jobs could be created in the waste management sector. For example, our assessment for Bangladesh reported that over 200,000 jobs could be created in the sector which was a part of an overall potential for the creation of 4 million green jobs in the country. Another assessment in Malaysia reported that more than 15,780 green jobs could be created in the sector. A key message of these assessments is that a holistic approach would have a larger job creation impact at the country level.

Currently, the ILO is taking a lead role in the United Nations (UN) to promote a Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition. In September 2021, the UN Secretary-General launched the Global Accelerator, with the ambition to bring together Member States, international financial institutions, social

partners, civil society, and the private sector, to help countries create 400 million decent jobs, including in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the 4 billion people currently excluded.

Just Transition can create decent work in the informal waste and recycling sector. To this end, a systemic approach is required to implement it through social dialogue involving representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations at all levels, including the sectoral level. In this regard, the ILO and UN-Habitat must strengthen collaboration on sharing knowledge, experiences, and good practices on complete recycling of every material, enabling us to achieve SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).



## Developing ethical EPR systems means elevating the needs of waste pickers

*This article is contributed by Taylor Cass Talbot from Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO).*

With rising waste generation rates and challenges with uncollected waste and pollution, policies like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) are being adopted around the world to incentivize recycling and improve packaging and product design. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), whether mandatory or voluntary, tasks producers with financing and sometimes even implementing the recovery of their products or packaging for recycling or disposal. EPR can, in theory, and a handful of [real cases](#), present opportunities for waste pickers and others in the informal recycling sector. But unless EPR is designed to integrate waste pickers and their organizations into both planning and implementation, it risks causing more harm than good for waste pickers.

EPR presents a number of [challenges](#) for waste pickers, including:

- Catalysing the privatization of the recycling sector, and attracting new competition for materials, including from the producers targeted under these policies.
- Formalizing the sector in ways that hurt rather than help. For example, mandating cost-prohibitive licensing or infrastructure requirements for gaining access to materials or service contracts, while overlooking beneficial formalization approaches like the provision of social and labour protections for workers.
- Neglecting to include representation from all existing waste management stakeholders, including waste pickers, in the design and implementation of EPR. This is exacerbated by a lack of baseline research

identifying key stakeholders, including waste pickers, and their contributions.

- Enabling excessive producer and private sector power to influence the system and lacking financial, material, and organizational transparency within EPR systems.

A [review](#) of EPR policies attempting inclusion of waste pickers in places like Brazil, Chile, India and South Africa reveals that inclusive EPR policies and schemes are largely aspirational, and only exist where waste pickers are already well organized. This doesn't bode well for waste pickers around the world, the majority of whom are not organized.

But just as plastic pollution is grabbing the world's attention, so too is the plight of waste pickers, who are increasingly recognized as key environmental actors in waste management. What needs greater recognition is the poverty-alleviating importance of low-barrier livelihoods like waste picking, and the need for more realistic opportunities for such workers to advance into more formal and decent work.

In 2018, the International Alliance of Waste Pickers, representing the interests of 20 million workers worldwide, [began](#) documenting and responding to the

challenges that waste pickers face under EPR, ultimately publishing an [official position on EPR](#) that presents recommendations, including that:

1. EPR should present opportunities for waste pickers to advance in planning and implementation systems, and mandate waste picker integration through targets and the provision of infrastructure, contracts and training, and organizing support. Nevertheless, EPR should not undermine informal entry points into the system, such as waste picking.
2. There be baseline and periodic research to assess waste sector stakeholders and their contribution to the system, as a means of identifying who should be brought to the table in system design as well as opportunity distribution in the system.
3. EPR systems are mandatory, transparent, and producer-funded but government-led.
4. EPR ensures litter and doorstep waste collection for all residents, including in informal settlements. Waste pickers should be contracted into the provision of these services.



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US-based waste picker organization Ground Score Association is working to create a more inclusive EPR system for beverage containers, through their producer-funded People's Depot program in Portland, Oregon



5Rs



5. Non-recyclable and hazardous materials should be phased out, and waste pickers supported to strengthen their work in reuse, repair, and mechanical recycling.

EPR can dramatically disrupt waste

management systems, with potentially devastating effects on the informal sector. The key to ethical EPR is ensuring that this disruption is not only environmentally sound but also economically just. For this to happen, issues of labour, equity, and integration of waste pickers and

other workers in the informal waste recovery economy must be urgently prioritised in the design of EPR systems, by meaningfully integrating waste pickers and their organizations into design, implementation, and monitoring processes.

## Stories of Waste Pickers in Kisumu, Kenya

The County of Kisumu, through the City Department of Environment, has been actively pushing for the formalization of actors in waste management by registering their businesses, licensing, and overseeing the recycling yards. This has been an ongoing model by UN-Habitat in Kisumu and other cities. UN-Habitat also designed a model of intermediary recyclable plastic collectors using the Maendeleo Center built by the county government of Kisumu to sell their plastic to Apex traders. Also, in the Public and Private Partnership Programme, the County of Kisumu established Waste Recovery Centres to facilitate the project's business model. The six recovery centres (Maendeleo being the first for implementation) provided the platform for plastic waste recovery, sorting, and sales because, unlike the other projects that would just offer handouts, turning waste into jobs provides an opportunity for all players – waste collectors, recyclable goods collectors, and waste pickers.

Here are two stories of waste pickers who were working in Kisumu.

### Elvis Omondi Onyango

Elvis Omondi Onyango is a 36 year-old waste picker living in Kisumu City, Ogango area. He is a member of the Kisumu Waste Actors Network (KIWAN) and a recruited supplier to Maendeleo Centre managed by KIWAN. "I am a waste entrepreneur dealing in door-to-door garbage collection from households, I also run an informal material recovery centre in Migosi, Kisumu", says Elvis.



© UN-Habitat

Before turning waste into a job, he was involved in the recovery of recyclables, for example, plastic, PET bottles, polyethylene etc.

"Due to unemployment amongst young people, I established an enterprise that would not only help to mitigate environmental challenges in my community but also help to create job opportunities for waste pickers who in most cases are looked down on especially during job application processes," emphasises Elvis. He joined the project through the City Directorate of Environment, which enhanced a seamless working relationship with KIWAN as an umbrella Association representing both the waste entrepreneurs and waste pickers. He reflects that being a member of KIWAN has helped him build his individual business network. Turning waste into a job project was an eye opener that helped increase the price of plastic from KES 15 before to KES 22 per kilogram. Especially, the training by UN-Habitat has helped

him to get better sales to Mr. Green Africa (currently selling his plastics to them at KES 30), "the UN-HABITAT WaCT training has enabled me to negotiate for better pay for the plastic I sell and to think big in terms of recycling" declares Elvis.

### Basil Kizito Owuor

Basil Kizito Owuor is a 29-year-old waste picker living in Kisumu. "I was once a field officer with a non-government organization in Kisumu and got laid off because the organization was suffering financially, and this is how I ended up as a waste picker".

He says before becoming a waste picker, he didn't know that waste was wealth because the plastic was finding its way to the dumpsite and people were not aware of the potential business. "I started off by hand-picking waste in the city centre and after some time, I bought my own cart and hired a person to help me with the collection," Basil mentions.



Basil joined the “Turning waste into jobs” project through the county government that partnered with KIWAN which he was already a member of. “Plastics were being transported to Nairobi before for sale and this was expensive for players at that time because they were operating

independently, but through the project, the plastics are sold right from the centre.” He adds, “the project has changed my life in many ways, and now I have knowledge of plastic recovery”. Basil empowers his community by creating jobs for waste picking, advocating for waste pickers’

rights and creating an encouraging environment without intimidation. He is happy about the important role they are playing in environmental conservation by collecting waste.

## Testimonials and other Stories of Waste Pickers

UN-Habitat developed three Sound of Waste testimonials in collaboration with the Danish sound artist Jacob Kirkegaard. These audio-visually impressively provide the real lives of waste pickers working at Dandora Dumpsite, Nairobi, Kenya.

[Testimonial #1 \(Wambua\)](#)

[Testimonial #2 \(Mam\)](#)

[Testimonial #3 \(Mohammed\)](#)



## Get to know our Affiliates

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

### Zero Waste Europe



[Zero Waste Europe \(ZWE\)](#) is the European network of communities, organisations, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems and the redesign of our relationship with resources, to

accelerate a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet.

ZWE was created in 2014, as the European regional branch of the [Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives \(GAIA\)](#), and throughout the last years has established itself as a key environment, circular economy, just transition, and movement-building network in Europe. Building on the initial zero waste vision and code created by the Italian city of Capannori, the ZWE network now includes [35 members from 28 European countries](#) and works with

topics across the whole chain.

From product design to reusability to end-of-pipe waste management solutions, from the phase-out of plastics to waste trade and municipal zero waste strategies, our scope has significantly expanded but our mission and vision remain the same – a zero waste, fairer, inclusive, circular Europe for all (and planet, too, while we’re at it).

You can also check a new [press release](#) about the city of Kiel, the first Zero Waste Certified Municipality in Germany.

### Our organisational values reflect our commitment and way of thinking and working:



We are **purpose-driven**, always putting forward a **solution-oriented** approach.



We care deeply about our communities, the environment, and systemic changes that benefit society as a whole - while also looking after ourselves and our own well-being as a team and as individuals.



We believe that acting with **integrity** is crucial to achieve impact and change, both inside and outside our network.



We adopt a **game-changing** approach to challenge the status quo, explore emerging topics and create a safe space to succeed (and to recover from setbacks).



We are **adaptable**, constantly striving towards learning and improving, open to change and taking agency.



© Zero Waste Europe



5Rs



## Pomilly East African



**POMILLY EAST AFRICAN LIMITED**  
*Food is too good to waste*

Pomilly East African Limited is a sole proprietorship and a privately owned company with limited liabilities, it's also known as PEAL-KENYA. It's based in Africa, Kenya. It was commenced in 2018 by an environmentalist who saw the need of regaining, recovering, and reusing lost (diamond) food. Our founder and CEO is Engineer Pondi Collins, an environmentalist and awards winner.

POMILLY has six employees at the moment and is mainly working in ORGANIC/FOOD & AGRICULTURAL WASTE RECYCLING. Currently, we are active in recycling organic waste into organic fertiliser granules, powder, tablet, and liquid, using the food waste we get from households, offices, malls, parastatals, hotels, and restaurants. Our production system is now producing 20t per week, which is relatively small, so we are seeking more opportunities.

It is also good to note that, before the food expires, we donate them to less fortunate people in our community and orphanages through our FOODBANKING department.

The company is also involved in different projects apart from organic waste recycling,

which is Research & Analysis Wing. We conduct research and consultations on modern farming to enhance food security and prevent food loss and waste management. We are currently collaborating with our county governments on how we can recycle the city sludge into fertiliser, as well as recycle the sanitary wares into cooking gas that can help the society around us.

We hope with your help we can reach farther and change people's lives because FOOD IS TOO GOOD TO WASTE.



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## 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?
- 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 WaCT and as you can see from the article below, more data is becoming available.

### WaCT application in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana

The city of Sekondi-Takoradi is one of the members of Waste Wise Cities and the African Clean Cities Platform. The Ghanaian city has 233,790 inhabitants, comprises the twin cities of Sekondi and Takoradi and is a port city on the Gulf of Guinea. With the support of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AtEPW), the city has conducted SDG Indicator 11.6.1 monitoring using the WaCT, from November to December 2022. The survey covered all three sub-metros, which are Takoradi, Sekondi, and Essikado.

The results show that the city generates 165 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per day, which means that each person generates 0.71 kg of MSW per day. The collection rate is 61 % and the city recovery rate is 3%. There is only one controlled recovery facility in the city, however, as a small amount is treated in this facility, the MSW managed in controlled facilities in the city (SDG 11.6.1) showed 0%. All the recoverables from the disposal facility are sent to the capital city Accra or several towns on the way to Accra.

Based on the results, the local stakeholders workshop held on 9 December 2022, 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.

AtEPW will further work on the project development based on the results obtained through the survey and workshop towards a sustainable waste management system in this Ghanaian coastal city.



### Kick-off of WaCT in ACCP member cities

During the third ACCP Assembly held on 25-29 July 2022, the ACCP Secretariat launched Call for proposals to conduct Do It Yourself (DIY) WaCT in member cities. The Secretariat received 44 proposals from the members and four cities were selected: Homabay County (Kenya),

Iramba District (Tanzania), Abidjan (Ivory Coast), and Kinshasa (DRC), based on the criteria set.

From February 2023, the actual work has started in the selected cities, with the Kick-off meeting and training for government officials, volunteers, and other stakeholders in the city.

Further updates and results will be shared with the members. We hope your city can also take the initiative of measuring the SDG indicator 11.6.1 following the [Step-by-Step Guide](#). You can also learn more about the methodology on the online course: [From Data to Tangible Impact: Achieving Waste SDGs by 2030](#).



## Waste Wise Cities & African Clean Cities Platform Updates

### The Nairobi Dialogue on a Just Transition of the Informal Waste Sector

Together with the Nairobi Group of Friends to combat marine litter and plastic pollution, UN-Habitat organized the [Nairobi dialogue on a just transition of the informal waste sector](#). Watch the recording, if you are interested in the discussion of how the transition of the informal sector to the formal sector in a just and inclusive manner can be addressed under the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process to end plastic pollution.

E-waste constitutes a small but rapidly growing part of the approximately 2.01 billion metric tonnes of solid waste that are generated globally each year (Kaza et al., 2018). It is a waste stream that has



a significant impact on the environment, society, and human health, and that is becoming a growing challenge for the world of work. What makes e-waste different from the waste streams of glass, paper, wood, and other materials is that used electrical and electronic equipment (UEEE) contains hazardous substances alongside valuable materials. Hence, it requires special

treatment. When managed well, e-waste offers opportunities for the generation of sustainable repair and recycling enterprises, and for the creation of green jobs in the circular economy. [This working paper](#) is the result of combined efforts by SECTOR and the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia and the Country Office for India.

### WACT Training for Let's Do It World Network

Data is key for planned interventions, infrastructure, policy and financial investment. On 23 November 2022, UN-Habitat provided an online training on the WaCT to the Let's Do It World's (LDIW) various countries' teams. The objective of the training was to engage cities and promote the use of WaCT for planning for improved municipal solid waste management (MSWM) interventions based on data and evidence.

The training was opened by Mrs. Heidi Solba, LDIW's president and head. She expressed her gratitude for the growing collaboration between LDIW and UN-Habitat's solid waste programmes, Waste Wise Cities and African Clean Cities Platform. She also highlighted the importance of such training, as opportunities to expand their work of global social actions through clean-up activities, by further engaging and supporting local governments in their transition toward a circular economy. Christine Sayo, Africa's regional director

for LDIW followed with opening remarks. She expressed the willingness to grow the partnership with UN-Habitat, to learn more about the tool and how it could be used by the LDIW network.

Finally, UN-Habitat solid waste expert, Francesca Calisesi voiced her delight at such a fruitful collaboration, after the signature of an MoU between LDIW and UN-Habitat aiming to empower and engage cities and increase awareness on the topic of sustainable MSWM.

The training kicked off with an overview of today's global challenges of MSW, highlighting that 2 billion people across the globe live without waste collection services, 3 billion without access to controlled waste disposal and under a

current business-as-usual scenario the solid waste sector will contribute to 8-10% of global GHG emissions by 2025. The training then dived into the WaCT's seven steps and showed in case studies how the implementation of this comprehensive methodology can help a city improve the performance of its MSWM system. In short, the data collected through WaCT will inform on a city's infrastructure and policy MSW gaps, provide key information to develop evidenced-based MSW strategies and action plans, and project proposal formulation for the funds' mobilization. Finally, WaCT helps to identify and engage the different stakeholders including the informal sector as well as evaluate the environmental level of control of waste management facilities.



## The International Day of Zero Waste on 30th March 2023

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in its seventy-seventh session, adopted the [resolution 77/161](#) “Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” on 14 December 2022, which proclaims [30 March as the International Day of Zero Waste](#), to be observed annually. The resolution, put forward by Türkiye with 105 other countries, was adopted unanimously by

the UNGA, with the purpose of raising awareness and mobilizing global action to address waste.

Zero waste is an approach to resource and waste management based on circularity. It promotes sustainable production and consumption habits and encourages the efficient use of resources. Zero waste entails avoiding wastefulness and advocating for the prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste. This can help achieve positive socio-economic outcomes, including the development of

social solidarity.

30th of March 2023 will be the first International Day of Zero Waste. The resolution invites all the stakeholders, including local government, civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe Zero Waste Day in an appropriate manner, with the aim of raising awareness of national, subnational, regional, and local zero-waste initiatives and their contribution to achieving sustainable development. We also welcome WWC and ACCP members and partners to commemorate the day through any events organization.



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## Call to Action

- Share with us your good practices of involvement of informal waste and recovery operators, EPR, etc.!
- Send us pictures of the state of dumpsites and the informal waste and recycling sector!
- Promote “Just Transition” towards no one being left behind in the waste management sector in your city!
- Become an ACCP and/or Waste Wise Cities member or affiliate and share your stories with us!
- For more visual insights, browse [this link!](#)
- Visit our website to get more details on our projects in the informal waste and recycling sector!
- Join us on the International Day for Zero Waste on the 30 March 2023 and register your activities and events [here!](#)