INTEGRATING THE INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR TO THE FORMAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Outline

• Overview of the Informal Sector and their Roles in the 3 Rs
• Benefits of Integrating The Informal Sector
• Threats in Non-Integration
• Current Issues and Concerns
• Integration methods/mechanisms
Who are the informal waste sector?

- Individuals, families, groups or small enterprises engaged in waste recovery as a means of livelihood
- They provide collection services and selling/trading of recyclables
- They have no social and economic security and work under substandard and unhealthy work conditions and have limited access to basic services
- They are not formally recognized as part of the public waste sector but may actually be a de-facto part of the formal waste sector
Classification of the Informal Sector

- **Itinerant waste buyers** – goes from house-to-house to purchase the recyclables

- **Jumpers** – young boys climbs the garbage trucks to recover the recyclables before it reaches the disposal facility
Classification of the Informal Sector

- Garbage crew – segregates recyclables in the truck for additional income

- Wastepickers at the dumpsites – recovers recyclables at the disposal facility
Classification of the Informal Sector

• Junkshops (illegal and small) – buyers of the recyclables from the itinerant waste buyers, jumpers, garbage crew and waste pickers
Hierarchy of Informal Waste Sector Recycling

- Importers of recyclable materials
- Recycling industries
- Brokers, wholesalers/consolidators
- Big junkshops
- Medium and small junkshops
- Itinerant waste buyers
- Garbage crew
- Jumpers
- Waste pickers/Waste reclaimers

Benefits of Integrating the Informal Sector

• Currently the key sector in recovery of recyclables in both urban and rural areas
• Has the expertise in making waste diversion a self-sustaining economic activity
• Has the forward and backward linkages that enable wastes to be recovered for recycling purposes
### Informal sector collection of recovered materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City, Country</th>
<th>Material Recovered by the Informal Sector (tonnes)</th>
<th>% Collected by the Informal Service Providers</th>
<th>% Collected by IWBs</th>
<th>% Collected by Street Sweepers</th>
<th>% Collected by Dump Pickers</th>
<th>% Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>2,161,534</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluj, Romania</td>
<td>14,575</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>529,370</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lusaka, Zambia</td>
<td>5,419</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune, India</td>
<td>117,895</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td>141,831</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WASTE and SKAT. Economic Aspects of Informal Sector Activities in Solid Waste Management. 2007
# Material Recovered by the Formal and Informal Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FORMAL</th>
<th>INFORMAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initially Handled</td>
<td>% Recovered of the Total Initially Handled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>810,677</td>
<td>365,724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluj, Romania</td>
<td>145,779</td>
<td>8,879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>1,839,711</td>
<td>9,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lusaka, Zambia</td>
<td>90,720</td>
<td>11,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune, India</td>
<td>394,200</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td>489,606</td>
<td>15,555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WASTE and SKAT. Economic Aspects of Informal Sector Activities in Solid Waste Management. 2007
**Threats in Non-Integration of the Informal Sector**

- Environmental hazards – dumping, burning of non-economic materials
- Peace and order – trading in stolen goods
- Competes with the community-level materials recovery facilities in their waste trading activities
- Aesthetics – most junkshops are eyesores
- Increased poverty and marginalization
Current Issues and Concerns of the Informal Waste Sector
Work Security

• Harassment by police while transporting recyclables
• Job loss due to sale of illegally obtained recyclables
• Lack of secure access to buyers of recyclables
Work Related Issues

- Lack of capital/transport in the case of itinerant waste buyers
- Proliferation of itinerant waste buyers and junkshops
- Price fluctuations (stop buying)
- High cost of transporting goods to recyclers or consolidators
- Difficulty in getting high quality recyclables due to non-segregation by waste generators
Environmental Health

- Unsanitary work conditions
- Absence of sanitation facilities
- Exposure to hazardous, allergenic and infectious components of waste
- Shorter life expectancy
AREAS OF INTEGRATION FOR THE INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR
Policy Level

• Accreditation of informal sector as waste management service providers
• Provision of incentives, e.g. tax exemptions or tax credits to informal sector
• Regulatory standards to guide the informal sector in the provision of services
Institutional level

- Organizing the sector into associations or cooperatives duly recognized by the national and/or local governments
- Inclusion of the informal sector in the SWM committees or local SWM boards
Operational level

- Developing partnership arrangements
- Developing contract agreements for services, i.e. collection, MRF management; street cleaning
- Support services and system – loan assistance, environmental health information dissemination and education; alternative livelihood training; price monitoring
SWAPP

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