



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



Source: D.C. Wilson, Costas Velis and Chris Cheeseman. "Role of Informal Sector Recycling in Waste Management in Developing Countries." Habitat International, 2005

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

	Material Recovered by the Informal Sector (tonnes)	% Collected by the Informal Service Providers	% Collected by IWBs	% Collected by Street Sweepers	% Collected by Dump Pickers	% Others
Cairo, Egypt	2,161,534	100				
Cluj, Romania	14,575		2	40	58	
Lima, Peru	529,370	7	27	30	6	30
Lusaka, Zambia	5,419			71	29	
Pune, India	117,895	32	34		10	24
Quezon City, Philippines	141,831		72	16	8	4

Source: WASTE and SKAT. *Economic Aspects of Informal Sector Activities in Solid Waste Management*. 2007

Material Recovered by the Formal and Informal Sector

	FORMAL			INFORMAL		
	Initially Handled	Recovered (Tonnes)	% Recovered of the Total Initially Handled	Initially Handled	Recovered (Tonnes)	% Recovered of the Total Initially Handled
Cairo, Egypt	810,677	365,724	45	2,567,142	2,161,534	84
Cluj, Romania	145,779	8,879	6	14,575	14,575	100
Lima, Peru	1,839,711	9,380	.5	848,364	529,370	62
Lusaka, Zambia	90,720	11,667	13	98,170	5,149	5.5
Pune, India	394,200	0	0	132,130	117,895	89
Quezon City, Philippines	489,606	15,555	3	141,831	141,831	100

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



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