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Cities



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#CERRY:IRS

@CostasVelis

TOOLS FOR INCLUSION OF INFORMAL RECYCLING SECTOR IN
GLOBAL SOUTH CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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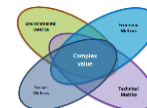
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**Wasteaware
Cities Indicators**



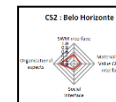
CVORR

EWIT E-Waste
Implementation Toolkit

SoCo



InteRa



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All round IRS stakeholder cross-disciplinary workshop



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ISWA internal evolution



The Informal Recycling Sector



- The sector**

It is estimated that some 20 million people around the world depend on the informal recycling sector for their livelihoods. The informal recycling sector is the largest source of income for the world's poorest people.
- Challenges**

In many developing countries, the informal recycling sector operates in a highly informal and unregulated manner. This leads to a lack of safety, health, and environmental standards, which can be detrimental to the health of the workers and the environment.
- Key challenges**

Despite the challenges, the informal recycling sector is a vital part of the urban economy. It provides a source of income for millions of people and helps to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills.

- Challenges**

Many international agencies and NGOs have been active in promoting the formalization of the informal recycling sector. However, the informal sector is often deeply entrenched and resistant to change.
- Key challenges**

The informal recycling sector is often characterized by a lack of organization, a lack of access to markets, and a lack of access to credit. This makes it difficult for the sector to grow and to improve its working conditions.

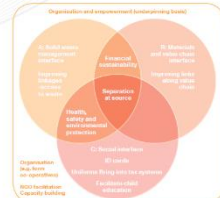


Figure 1 – Analytical framework:
This shows the systematic analytical framework developed by the Task Force to set the design of initiatives to facilitate transition into a formal part of an integrated ISWM system. In a specific city, informal recyclers are allocated to four categories, the underlying organizational capacity and three primary enablers. Some of the interventions, which target several categories, are among those highlighted in Table 4 below as key challenges.

The informal recycling sector is active in many developing country cities and is a substantial group in ISWA. Despite the considerable challenges involved (see Table 4 below), dialogue between the formal and informal sectors, and transition to a formalized recycling activity within a city's ISWM system, is to the advantage of both, allowing cities to take improvements in their risk, living and working conditions, livelihoods and recycling rates, and the levels of environmental control. Such integration will facilitate the transition from an unresolvable situation to the goal of a fully formalized waste management system.

Key Challenges	Messages / Proposed Solutions
Identifying building and working conditions	The informal sector needs to be encouraged and facilitated to organize themselves, e.g. through registration, microfinance or other legal entity - enabling them to manage responsibility with municipalities and other stakeholders. The facilitation role of local NGOs is often important, as is capacity building and making available sources to access relevant services.
Building social responsibility	A key component of many successful schemes has been the raising of identification cards (and uniforms) to the people doing the recycling, thereby identifying facilities across communities. Some countries have also allowed people to register together, working as an official employment (e.g. Brazil), which brings them under the law and the tax system.
Safe working conditions	A key concern is the unhygienic and unsafe working conditions of much current informal recycling. Safe and dignified working conditions need to be provided.
Improving working conditions	Separation for recycling should increasingly take place either from mixed waste, which would immediately help to address the usual issue of raw health hazards. These solid types are often highly profitable and can be further built on and expanded. Source separation will increase both the quality of recycled materials and recycling rates, thus diverting waste from landfill and improving livelihoods of the recyclers.
Organization of the sector	Child labor needs to be addressed, by working with informal recyclers to ensure that children go to school, and that recycling activities be carried out under the legal control of authorities. The priority is to reduce and eventually eliminate child labor.
Environmental control	Environmental concerns need to be addressed, with littering around sorting points and illegal dumping of non-recyclable residues being controlled and environmental standards for the sorting and processing of recyclables and for the subsequent processing of recyclates being met.
Waste sorting and processing	Waste picking at the working place of a modern landfill is unacceptable, as is deliberately setting fire to the waste to recover metals.
Improving access to services	In order for a city to take on integrated waste management, the authorities need to understand all the waste flows, including both the formal ISWM system under their control and the informal recycling system - which will be facilitated by transition to formalization.

Table 4. Particular challenges and proposed solutions for integrating the informal recycling sector



<http://closedumpsites.iswa.org/>

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Africa-EU research collaboration agenda



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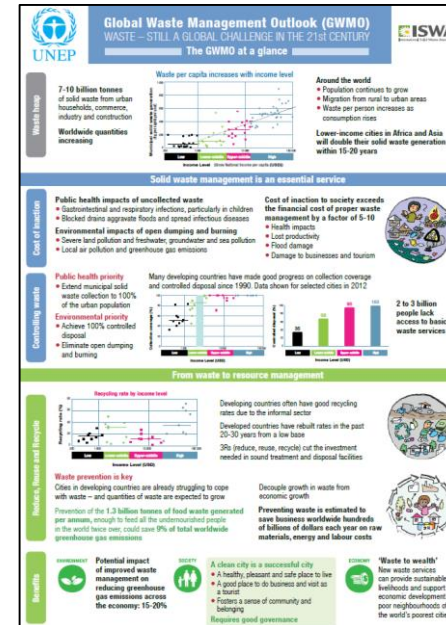
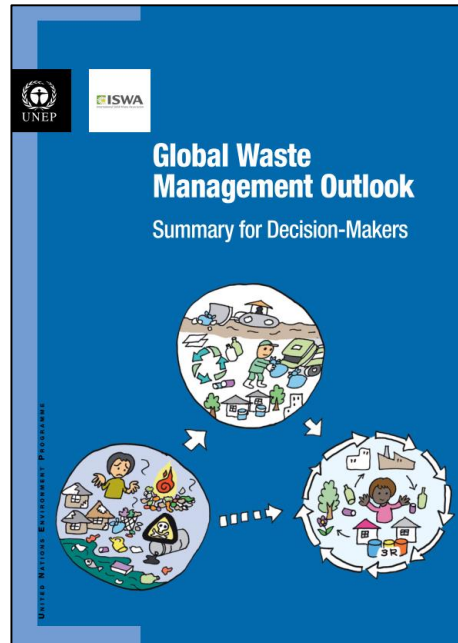
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UNEP / ISWA: Global Waste Management Outlook



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Major progress and emerging challenges for IRS

Editorial

draft

WM&R

Waste pickers in Global South: Informal recycling sector in a circular economy era

Waste Management & Research
1–3
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DOI: 10.1177/0734242X17702024
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Wishing you a productive workshop!

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