



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



MODULE 4

Preventing abandonment and littering of waste

"Promotion of BAT/BEP to reduce uPOPs releases from waste open burning in the participating African countries of SADC sub-region"



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INTRODUCTION

The abandonment of waste is defined as "the disposal, without environmental controls, of solid wastes outside one's own property or outside the site where it is generated".

To eliminate or reduce the open air burning of waste deriving from the abandonment of waste, and the hazards associate with it, many actions are required:

- The overall, medium-term goal is to build an effective Solid Waste Management system that provides alternatives to abandonment and open air burning.
- The most effective short-term ways to reduce abandonment are to:
 - reach 100% collection coverage
 - manage safely municipal landfills and intermediate transfer stations
 - develop the appropriate Regulations and Compliance mechanism → legislation and institutional setting. where the legislation must clearly state that the abandonment, dumping or uncontrolled disposal of waste is prohibited, while waste prevention, recycling and processing for re-use is promoted.

POLICY-MAKERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT

There exist many different types of waste abandonment, performed by different actors for different reasons:

- Households abandon waste on the streets when it is not collected by the service provider: they get no advantage from this behavior
- Waste Collectors abandon it in public or private areas when, after collection, they do not have access to operating SWM facilities
- Waste is abandoned inside SWM facilities and plants when these do not function effectively
- Households illegally abandon waste on the streets when they do not want to pay for the service fee
- Illegally exported waste - from high income to low-income Countries - can be abandoned in dumps because it cannot serve any purpose
- Industrial waste: high income countries also have been affected by the illegal dumping of industrial waste. This behavior is adopted to avoid paying for the high cost of a proper industrial waste management and treatment plants.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT POLICY-MAKERS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE A STRATEGY TO COORDINATE THE ACTORS INVOLVED IN A SWM SYSTEM?

Many actors contribute to SWM, if an effective SWM system is to be built and operated the different roles and contributions of each actor must be coordinated in an overall vision. neither a single actor nor a single practice or technology can give the solution to building an effective SWM system.

The functions of actors in an effective SWM system - where waste abandonment is eliminated or minimised - can be classified as:

- SWM policymakers, designers and regulators contribute to the writing of the SWM City Action Plan, its implementation, and to the enforcement of legislation.
- The interested and/or affected sectors of the civil society have the right to discuss the existing SWM situation and the proposed alternative solutions, and cost and tariffs of service.
- Services providers perform SWM activities, such as waste collection, or manage facilities and plants.
- Industrial actors produce the objects that then become waste.

To engage the many actors in contributing to an effective SWM system, roles and responsibility must be clearly assigned by the legislation and trust must be shared among participants. The formulation of an overall SWM strategy can coordinated all the actors to move towards a common goal for public health and environmental protection and facilitate citizens engagement.

It is important to consider some basic criteria to obtain engagement of key stakeholders, such as:

- Establish clear strategic goals for SWM through public participations of all relevant actors
- Ensure all actors know what is required of them by providing clear regulations and monitoring
- Ensure equal access to affordable services for all: fees must be issued and collected for a SWM system to be financially sustainable but the difficulty of some sectors of society to pay the fee should not prevent from ensuring 100% coverage to all citizens
- Establish EPR schemes for selected waste, such as packaging, WEEE

WASTE ABANDONMENT HIGHLIGHTS THE RELEVANCE OF A WELL FUNDED AND STAFFED PUBLIC NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

All occurrences of abandonment underline the need for Public Institutions to be able to:

- ✓ undertake effective controls at waste generator's premises
- ✓ regularly perform monitoring of public spaces, environmental media, and public health.

It is also important to be part of International Conventions aimed at protecting from illegal import-export of waste.

Monitoring the effect of SWM on public health and the environment is essential to maintain or re-gain trust, as is the regular production of documents publicly illustrating the work done.

AWARENESS AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

Citizens and other actors generating waste should be targeted by communication activity specifying how waste could be reduced, reused, or recycled.

Information can include:

- providing details on the organization of waste collection: location of bins; timing of collections; ...
- why a service fee exists and why it should be regularly paid
- community activity related to cleaning the neighbourhood
- suggesting waste reduction lifestyle: avoid plastic bottles; avoid single use food and beverages containers
- instruction and bins for home-composting of organic waste
- buy second-hand goods.



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