Solid Waste Management

West Bank and Gaza

Background Information

- Population: 2.9 million
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Generation: 0.65 million tons (2002)
- Per Capita MSW Generation: 0.85-1.2 kg/day (urban areas) 0.5-0.7 kg/day (rural areas)
- MSW Generation Growth: 11% per year

Technical performance

- MSW Collection Coverage: 35% in rural areas 85% in urban areas
- MSW Final Destination: 0% composted 1% recycled 30% landfilled 69% open dumped

- In the Gaza Strip, Rafah, Gaza City and the middle area between the two cities have sanitary landfills.
- Jenin District in the West Bank has developed a SWM system including collection and disposal. Implementation is underway.

Legal and Policy Environment

- Strategic approaches to waste management in West Bank and Gaza have not yet emerged, although a number of activities are now being undertaken that may result in significant change.
- The laws relevant to SWM have evolved differently in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In Gaza they were developed along Egyptian lines and later supplemented by Israeli regulations. In the West Bank, some laws can be traced back to Ottoman and British roots, but the main legislation is Jordan Public Health Law No. 43 of 1966 that deals mainly with collection services for commercial and domestic waste. Currently, laws are being prepared by the elected Legislative Council.
- The Environmental Protection Law approved in 2000 addresses solid waste management and provides the Environmental Authority with broad policy, planning, environmental impact assessment, standard setting, monitoring and enforcement authorities. In addition, there are presidential orders, most notably concerning the disposal and reuse of construction debris, and orders and by laws from governors and municipalities.
**Institutional Framework**

- At the central level, the Ministry of Local Government and the Environment Quality Authority are the major players for developing general policies and strategies, enacting legislation, supporting the implementation of the strategy and related programmes and undertaking public awareness activities in the fields of SWM.

- Apart from the refugee camps where SWM services are largely provided by UNRWA, the collection and disposal of solid waste is the responsibility of local government – municipalities and village councils. In addition, enforcement is undertaken by municipal officials.

- In the middle area of the Gaza Strip, south of Wadi Gaza, but excluding Rafah, a SWM Council has been formed to provide secondary solid waste collection and disposal.

**Financial Arrangements**

- In general, capital infrastructure relies on external financial support.

- Municipalities determine and collect the taxes that are used to finance solid waste collection and disposal. Tax revenues cover less that 40 percent of service costs while it is reported that most municipalities spend more than on third of their budget on SWM.

- In some cities in the Gaza Strip, SWM fees are collected through electricity bills. Meanwhile, the SWM Council in Gaza is also charging fees to municipalities that benefit from secondary solid waste collection and disposal services.

**Private Sector Involvement**

- Private sector participation is still limited and “service contracts” are the only form of private sector participation used in the West Bank and Gaza. Private services are limited to waste collection and transport. The 140,000 inhabitants of the Nablus municipality comprise the largest population covered by such services.

**Options for Improvement**

- Formalize a legislative and institutional framework supportive of integrated solid waste management that separates central government policy, planning, regulatory, monitoring and enforcement functions from local government operational functions.

- Create mechanisms to ensure the sustainable financing of waste management investments and cost recovery mechanisms that link service demand to affordability of waste management systems.

- Develop capacity in all aspects of waste management systems administration, policy and planning, financing, cost recovery and operations.

- Strengthen the capacity of government to undertake and deliver public awareness activities.