The State of Solid Waste Management in Maputo, Mozambique

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Context

• Maputo, the capital of Mozambique has 1.2 million people and produces more than 1000 tons of solid waste per day.

• Municipalities were created in 1997 and by 2002 SWM was already a big concern in Maputo. Municipal officials started to look for solutions in 2004, with support of a GTZ-funded project on SWM.

• World Bank support to SWM began in 2007, through the Municipal Development Program (ProMaputo) that seeks to strengthen the institutional and financial capacities of the city to improve infrastructure and service delivery.

• The World Bank has had a long time intervention in the municipal sector in Mozambique (since 1995 and has two active urban operations, including ProMaputo)
The Past: From emergency response to strategic planning

- Service was provided on an ad hoc/emergency basis and as a reaction to public criticism, with very limited coverage.
- In 2004 SWM began to take a strategic planning approach (costs and revenues).
- In 2005 the preparation of the SW Master Plan began, with the vision of creating “a clean and healthy city.”
- The Solid Waste Master Plan: Five main objectives:
  - A phased extension of services to all citizens in a suitable and economically feasible way.
  - Cost recovery through revenues of the sector (Waste Fee).
  - Modernisation of the public administration with an active response to its responsibilities.
  - Explore the benefits of private sector participation.
  - Building awareness for an active and productive contribution of the citizens.

The financing dilemma: the chicken or the egg

- Service delivery is poor due to lack of revenues, but revenues cannot be improved because poor service delivery.
- SW Fee: Collected through the electricity bill and proportional to consumption. Only 1% of disposable income and earmarked since 2005. Legal provision to cut off energy, which results in high compliance (90%). However, there was still a financing gap, then...
- The World Bank came in, through ProMaputo, to close the gap through declining subsidies to the private contracts. For that, the Bank required two main commitments:
  - Adherence to a financial sustainability plan with a ten year horizon (including a revised fee structure and commitment to subsequent increases—until cost recovery).
  - Commitment to institutional change, organizational development, privatization of services, and long term planning.
Present: Basic characteristics of the service

- Nine modalities for service provision, with two main ones for residential waste:
  - One contract for the Inner/ high density City
  - One contract for the suburban and periurban areas (primary + secondary collection)
- Internal restructuring (more qualified staff, planning and monitoring procedures)
- Private sector participation (city to look after contracting and monitoring rather than operation)
- SW Fee: Planned increases until cost recovery.
- ProMaputo finances 65% of the contracts and will continue with the declining subsidies
- Continuous expansions of coverage (all the 58 neighborhoods in the city are covered)

Lessons learned, challenges, and way forward

- Initial help is needed to make the first substantial step towards an efficient SWM system.
- Full political commitment is needed at all times, but politicians change...
- Market imperfections in the supply of services from the private sector.
- Various local and international effects on cost structure (new landfill and oil prices).
- Fees cannot be increased until service improvements are noticeable.
- Pressure to continue the expansion of services—due to SW fee collection mechanism.
Innovative Aspects

• Tailor made approach: locally tried and adjusted technical solutions

• Bridge the gap approach of service coverage/quality vs. revenues with long term financial strategy (SW fee) and World Bank financial support

• Focus on previously disadvantaged suburban areas results in service equilibrium between "rich" and "poor" areas, with a total overall increase in collection from 250 tons in 2004 to 650 in 2011.

• Private service participation on different levels, not only large international companies, but also through about 35 micro enterprises in charge of primary collection that have generated more than 600 jobs in suburban areas

• Regulation and opening of market for local service provision for commercial waste services

• Broader and socially just waste fee tied to electricity bill: >85% coverage and adhesion

• Strategy does not aim at the best available service for few areas, but best affordable service for everybody

• World Bank acceptance to finance operation costs

• Success factor Nº 1: constant commitment from all partners (CMM, WB, GIZ) and common understanding of objectives and tasks (as simple, or complex, as that!)