

Solid Waste Management

Jordan

Background Information

- Population: 5.2 Million
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Generation: 1.46 million tons per year
- Per capita MSW Generation: 0.7-0.85.kg/day (urban areas) & 0.65 kg/day (rural areas)
- MSW Generation Growth: 3% per year

Technical performance

- MSW Collection Coverage: 95 % in rural areas
95 % in urban areas
- MSW final destination:
 - composted
 - recycled
 - 85% landfilled
 - 15 % open dumped
- An engineering landfill serves Greater Amman.
- In general, disposal facilities elsewhere in the country are in not fully engineered but operated in ways that reduce nuisance's factors.
- Composting exists only on a pilot basis and recycling is undertaken by the informal sector.
- A biogas recovery initiative is underway at the landfill serving Greater Amman.

Legal & Policy Environment

- v National SWM policy or strategies for solid waste management does not exist. However the National Environmental Action Plan has identified waste management as a national priority and has defined a wide range of actions to improve the SWM situation.
- v In general, the legal framework governing SWM consists of a broad environmental law (Law n° 12 of 1995). It is structured to provide for the management of environmental issues according to environmental media (air, soil, water etc) but does not explicitly address solid waste management.
- v Management of waste is addressed directly by Acts N° 5 enacted under the above law but with focus on hazardous wastes. A new law that will specifically address municipal solid waste is under preparation.
- v Cost recovery associated with solid waste is covered by the Regulation n° 88 of 1998 which introduced the solid waste fees and defined the electricity bill as a mechanism for its collection.

Institutional Framework

- v At national level, two key institutions are involved in SWM: The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MMRA) and the Ministry of Administrative Development and Environment (MADE). The MMRA plays a central role by virtue of its administration of municipal affairs; a key responsibility of this ministry consists of providing the municipalities with funds to invest in SWM infrastructure.
- v The key role of MADE is regulating activities with potential impacts in the environment and natural resources including solid waste management.
- v Municipalities are fully responsible for solid waste management operations. Regionalised delivery of municipal services is well-established in Jordan under authority of the legal framework governing municipal structure and operations. As a consequence, municipalities share waste disposal facilities. In some cases they also share waste collection systems, although more commonly individual municipal units operate their own waste collection systems.
- v Governorates are in charge of monitoring waste disposal sites from health and safety prospective.

Financial Arrangements

- v Jordan has a national mechanism whereby municipalities can obtain low interest loans for municipal infrastructure and equipment, including waste management. The Ministry of Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs offers low interest loans for municipal activities including waste management.
- v Cost recovery is via a flat charge on households generally in the range of 0.67-1.00 Jordanian Dinars per month charged on the electrical bill; the electric utility charges 10% administration. This is estimated to recover not more than 60% of the direct operating cost of waste management services (collection plus disposal, excluding capital amortization or replacement). The shortfall is made up from either local municipal revenues or transfers from government.

Private Sector Involvement

- v Solid waste management in Jordan is undertaken through the public sector and the private sector is not a significant player in this field.

Options for Improvement

- v Development of an appropriate SWM policy and legal framework that support a modern SWM systems including the approval of the solid waste law.
- v Strengthen national and municipal capacities to promote PSP in the fields of solid waste.
- v Elaborate SWM plans at municipal level to support the adoption of integrated SWM systems including rationalizing of collection costs.
- v Develop an appropriate mechanism for SWM cost recovery based on the "polluter pays and user pays" principle.