

## Solid Waste Management

### Syria

#### **Background Information**

- Population: 16.9 million
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Generation: 3.65 – 5.48 million tons per year
- Per Capita MSW Generation: 0.4 – 0.5 kg/day (urban areas)  
0.2 – 0.4 kg/day (rural areas)
- MSW Generation Growth: 2.5 – 3.5%

#### **Technical Performance**

- MSW Collection Coverage: unknown in rural areas  
80% in urban areas
- MSW Final Destination: 5% composted  
15% recycled  
25% landfilled  
60 % open dumped
- The construction of three landfills in Latakia, Homs and Aleppo is underway. The existing solid waste management (SWM) system in Damascus is being upgraded.
- Several municipalities have begun upgrading the operation of their dumpsites.

#### **Legal and Policy Environment**

- v Neither a national policy nor a solid waste management strategy have been developed. However, SWM plans have been developed for large cities including Aleppo, Homs, and Damascus.
- v In Syria there are no laws on SWM. The regulations in force come from decrees and orders from the Prime Minister and Minister of Local Administration. In addition, the environmental law, Law 50 of 2002, includes some provisions for SWM, but its executive regulations have not been prepared.
- v The law of local administration identifies municipalities as the agencies responsible for SWM.

#### **Institutional Framework**

- v Each governorate is responsible for planning and implementing regional SWM strategies.
- v Municipalities are fully responsible for all SWM activities particularly day to day management and operation of SWM systems, fee and tax collection, and private sector services contracting.

- v The Ministry of Local Administration is involved indirectly in SWM as it is the “competent authority” responsible for supervising municipal activities.
- v The Ministry of Environment is responsible for implementing and enforcing the environmental law. It is also involved in public awareness raising, preparing SWM national plans and providing technical assistance to municipal entities.

### ***Financial Arrangements***

- v In Syria, the main sources of revenue for municipalities are: (i) central government taxes and Ministry of Finance fees; (ii) municipal direct taxes (construction permit licenses, road construction licenses); (iii) cleanliness fees (separate tariffs for households and commercial establishments as set by Law No. 1 of 1994); (iv) fines imposed for non-observance of SWM regulations or other municipal regulations; (v) local administrative units can also receive financial assistance in the form of loans and grants from the central government or other donors and organizations.
- v Recent studies concluded that the current cleanliness fee rate would have to be increased at least five times to cover current solid waste management costs.
- v Local fees are collected and retained by municipalities but the funds are not earmarked for solid waste management.
- v User fees for waste disposal are being introduced in Homs city. Municipalities and private companies using Homs landfill pay about US\$2.50 per ton.

### ***Private Sector Involvement***

- v The private sector is involved in solid waste collection, particularly in large cities. Private sector contractors collect 30 percent of the solid waste in Damascus and 40 percent in Homs. The transfer and disposal of municipal waste is also being carried out by private firms in Damascus, Aleppo and Homs.

### ***Options for Improvement***

- v Strengthen the SWM legal framework including the elaboration of the executive regulations of the environmental law and the establishment of SWM standards and norms.
- v Develop and implement a national policy targeted at reducing the amount of waste generated in the country.
- v Develop an appropriate mechanism for SWM cost recovery based on the “polluter pays” and “user pays” principles.
- v Develop capacity at the national and municipal levels to effectively adopt integrated solid waste management systems.
- v Strengthen the capacity of government in undertaking and delivering public awareness activities.