

Solid Waste Management

Tunisia

Background Information

- Population: 9.8 million (2002)
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Generation: 1.8 million tons (2002)
- Per Capita MSW Generation: 0.8 kg/day (urban areas)
0.2 kg/day (rural areas)
- MSW Generation Growth: 2% per year

Technical Performance

- MSW Collection Coverage: 90% in rural areas
95% in urban areas
- MSW Final Destination: 0.5% composted
5% recycled
50% landfilled
44.5% open dumped
- Five sanitary landfills are operating and cover 34 municipalities (730,000 tons/year).
- Seven sanitary landfills are under construction. Their total capacity will be 3.125 million tonnes. They will cover 80 municipalities in the governorates of Bizerte, Monastir, Kairouan, Sfax, Gabes and Medenine.
- There are two sorting plants in Tunis and Sousse cities.
- Composting exists only on a pilot basis and recycling is undertaken by the private sector, although the informal sector is developed.

Legal and Policy Environment

- v The National Solid Waste Management Program (PRONADGES) launched in 1993 constitutes the national strategic and operational plan for solid waste management (SWM) while the Municipal Development Plan constitutes the major framework for municipal development strategies to enhance the quality of the environment in urban areas.
- v In Tunisia, a comprehensive legislative framework for environmental protection and solid waste management has been enacted. There are numerous laws and regulations dealing directly and indirectly with different aspects of solid waste. Law No. 41, approved June 10, 1996, constitutes the most detailed regulation for the management, elimination and control of solid waste at the national and local levels.
- v Municipal Law No. 95-68 of 1995 (Loi organique des communes no. 95-68) gives full responsibility for municipal solid waste management to municipalities and includes several provisions that promote inter-municipality principles.
- v For waste law application, Decree No. 97-1102 defines the conditions for packaging waste. It also establishes a national waste packaging system called ECO-lef.

Institutional Framework

- v At the national level, the key public institutions involved in SWM are: The Ministry of Interior and Local Development (MILD), the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, and the National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPE).

- v MILD is involved in defining and monitoring municipal development policies. Through its general directorates, it assists municipalities in planning, contracting and capacity development related to SWM. It is also responsible for implementing and monitoring the National Cleanliness Program (Programme National de la Propreté).
- v The Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources elaborates and enforces legal frameworks for SWM, develops strategies and policies, promotes solid waste valorisation and material recovery and implements awareness and education activities.
- v In 2000, the government nominated ANPE to lead the implementation of PRONAGDES through the SWM Department that coordinates and monitors program progress. ANPE also contracts the private sector to construct and operate landfills. It is also responsible for collecting transfer and disposal fees from municipalities using the newly constructed sanitary landfill in Greater Tunis. In parallel, ANPE is responsible for regulating activities, including solid waste management, with potential environmental impacts.
- v At the local level, municipalities are fully responsible for SWM, with administrative support from the governorates.

Financial Arrangements

- v Tunisia has a national mechanism (la Caisse des Prêts et de Soutien aux Collectivités Publiques Locales: CPSCL) whereby municipalities can obtain low interest loans for municipal infrastructure and equipment, including that for waste management.
- v Most transfer and disposal facilities under construction are financed through the state budget with the support of international and bilateral financial institutions. Municipalities are also covering some 5 percent of the investment costs.
- v There is no specific SWM cost recovery system in Tunisia. Municipalities use local taxes to finance direct operating costs of waste collection and disposal. These taxes recover part of this cost and the shortfall is made up from other local municipal revenues.
- v ANPE is responsible for the administrative, technical and financial management of ECO-Lef. This includes waste packaging charges recovery.

Private Sector Involvement

- v The private sector is mainly involved in waste collection services through operation contracts with municipalities. More than 60 municipalities have signed operation contracts with national and international private firms for collection and cleansing services. ANPE has also contracted a few firms for the operation of waste transfer and landfill facilities.
- v Economic incentives including National Environmental Fund (FODEP) assistance are given to promote private sector participation in financing SWM and valorisation projects.

Options for Improvement

- v Strengthen the institutional and policy frameworks. Clearly define the roles and mandates of key players in solid waste management.
- v Strengthen national and municipal capacities to promote efficient private sector participation and optimize the costs of existing SWM systems.
- v Develop cost recovery mechanisms and reinforce municipal capacities to improve revenues and municipal financial systems.
- v Promote municipal partnerships and initiate integrated SWM plans at the governorate level.