



Make Visible
the **INVISIBLE**
Sound management of chemicals and wastes

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.brsmeas.org

[CLICK HERE](#) ONLINE PARTICIPATION

Moderated by

Ms. Corinne Trommsdorff,
CEO, French Solid Waste Partnership



SIDE EVENT

May 7, 2025 | 13:15 – 15:00 | ROOM C

Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

Intro - Ms. Alexandra Monteiro, Solid waste Senior Coordinator, AFD

Part 1 – Waste & Resources at the core of sustainable development

M. Graham Alabaster

Chief Geneva Office, UN-Habitat

M. Carlos Silva Filho

Past-President, ISWA

Part 2 – ESM of household waste : most critical elements for our future sustainable development

Ms. Julie Croteau

Representative of Canada

Ms. Victoria Zhang

Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center,
Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China

Ms. Camille Tahon

Programme Manager, Climate and Clean Air Coalition

Part 3 – The role of the informal recycling sector with a focus on gender mainstreaming

Ms. Maria Tsakona

Senior Expert, GRID-Arendal

M. Griffins Ochieng

Programmes Coordinator, Center for Environment Justice and Development

Concluding remarks

M. Rolph Payet

Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions

Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

Introduction remarks



Alexandra Monteiro

Solid waste Senior Coordinator,
Agence Française de Développement

Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

Part 1 – Waste & Resources at the core of sustainable development

Moderated by:



Corinne Trommsdorff
Executive Director French
Solid Waste Partnership



Graham Alabaster
Chief Geneva Office, UN-
Habitat



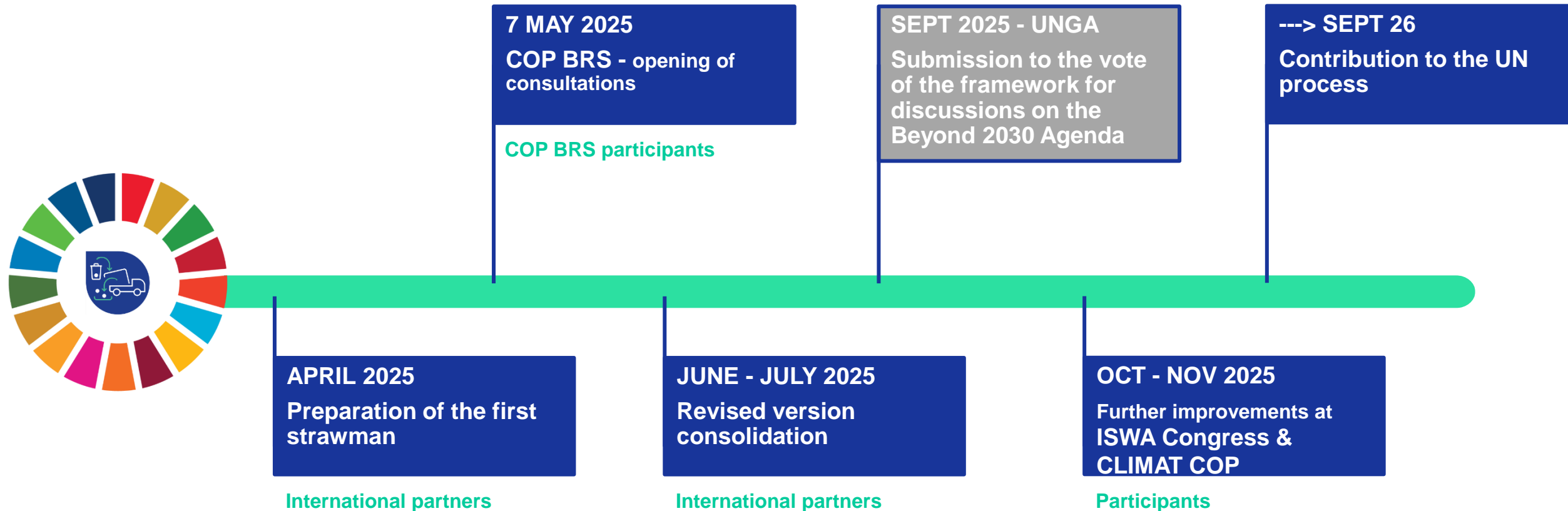
Carlos Silva Filho
Past-President, ISWA



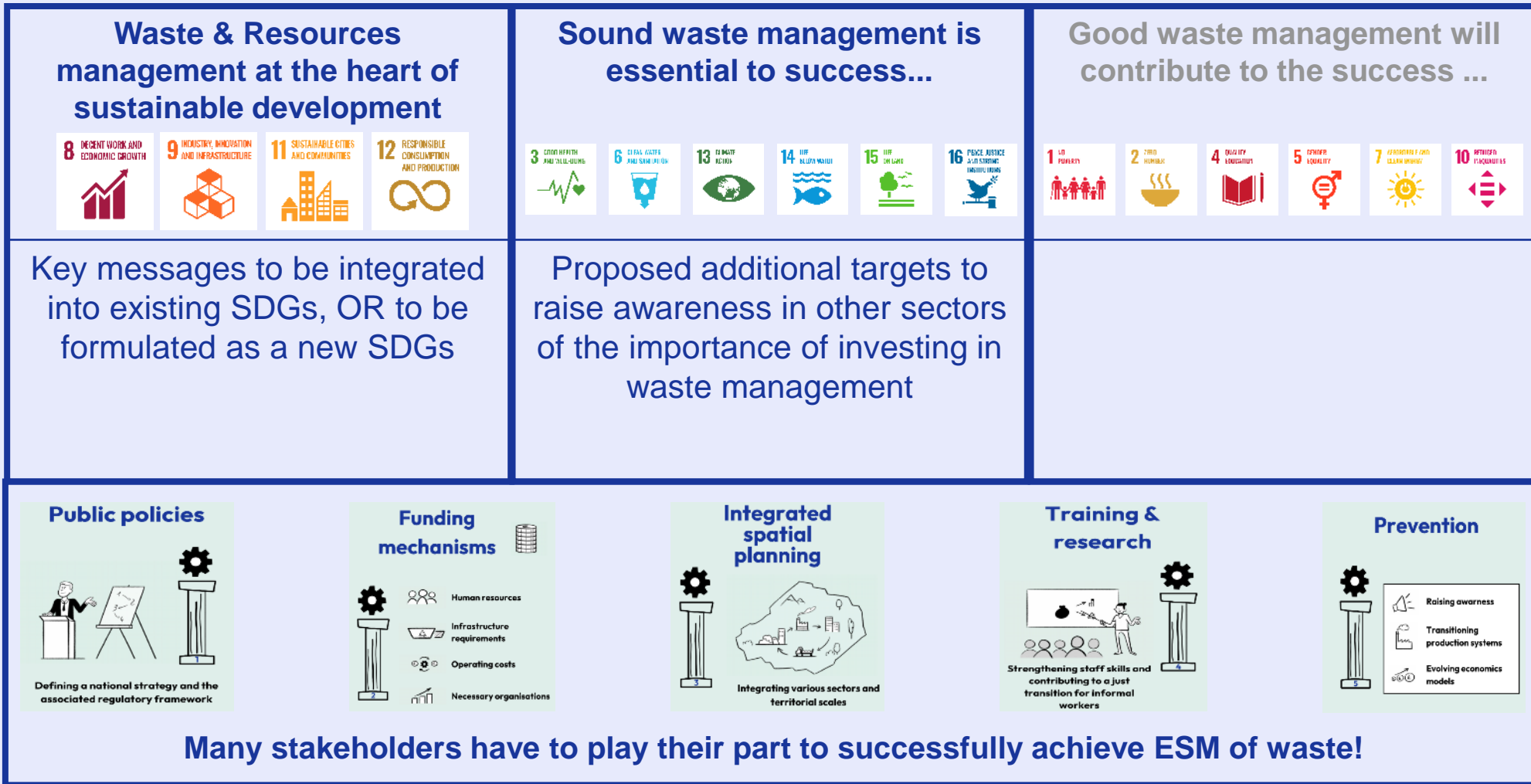
The “Global Push” initiative for Waste & Resources Sound Management

- Waste and resources management needs to be recognized by all as a corner stone of sustainable development.
- The waste and resources community is inherently multi-stakeholder encompassing citizens, local authorities, national governments, private companies, UN-agencies, NGOs, international finance, research and education...
- Waste management is discussed in many arenas, but discussions remain fragmented as there is no overarching umbrella.
- These stakeholders must unite under a shared vision to drive the cross-sectoral transformative change needed.

Process of the "Global Push" initiative



Proposed consultation framework



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Waste & Resource efficiency in SDGs



- A holistic systemic framework
- Topics of
 - ✓ Waste and pollution
 - ✓ Waste and resource efficiency
 ...are present, **but not really visible**, and with very few actual indicators;

...are **not strong enough** to drive ESM of waste implementation everywhere.

Source: UN-Habitat

Waste SDG Indicators



Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets		Indicator
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.	Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities with regards to the total waste generated by the city



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Targets		Indicator
12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.	Food loss Index Food Waste Index
12.4	By 2030, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.	Hazardous waste generated per-capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.	National recycling rate, tons of material recycled



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Targets		Indicator
14.1	Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	Tier 3. awaiting the development of internationally established methodology and standards



A closer look at the SDGs

To anchor our reflection in this powerful framework

Waste and Pollution Topics in the Existing SDGs



3.9 By 2030, substantially **reduce** the number of **deaths and illnesses** from hazardous chemicals and **air, water and soil pollution and contamination**



6.3 By 2030, **improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping** and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



11.6 By 2030, reduce **the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities**, including by paying special attention to air quality and **municipal and other waste management**

Waste and Pollution Topics in the Existing SDGs



12.4 By 2020, achieve **the environmentally sound management** of chemicals and **all wastes** throughout **their life cycle**, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly **reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment**

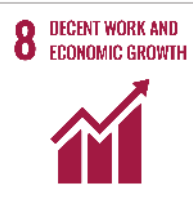


13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning



14.1 By 2025, prevent and **significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds**, in particular **from land-based activities, including marine debris** and nutrient pollution

Resource efficiency Topic in the Existing SDGs



8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, **global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation**, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead



9.4 By 2030, **upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries** to make them **sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency** and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities



11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and **implementing integrated policies** and plans towards inclusion, **resource efficiency**, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels



12.2 By 2030, achieve the **sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources**

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita **global food waste** at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

12.5 By 2030, substantially **reduce waste generation** through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse



Waste & Resources management at the heart of sustainable development

Five key messages to be incorporated into the « Beyond 2030 SDGs »

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



1. Eco-design and new economic models to reduce waste generation:

- Apply standards, such as ISO 59004*, to transform the production and consumption patterns based on the 9-R
- Enable new economic model based on resource circularity.

2. Waste management strategies integrated in master planning, including:

- Product circularity models to extend their lifespan (reuse, repair, restoration, remanufacture, repurposing),
- End-of-use collection,
- ESM of waste treatment infrastructures and the necessary networks such as roads, energy, water, industrial users of recovered materials and energy.

3. Just transition:

- improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable,
- provide decent jobs,
- comply with ESM practices,
- ensure economic viability.

Partenariat
français pour
les déchets



French
solid waste
partnership



Waste & Resources management at the heart of sustainable development

Five key messages to be incorporated into the « Beyond 2030 SDGs »

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



4. Transparency and traceability:

- Establish full traceability of products and chemicals lifecycle, including waste management destinations and modalities, whether ESM or not,
- this includes promoting digital tools, enhancing reporting mechanisms, and building institutional capacity as foreseen under Basel Convention obligations.

5. The journey to improve waste management systems is about improving from basic to circular waste management systems:

- establish ESM compliant final disposal systems as the priority for **protecting health and the environment**,
- raise the ambition towards circularity: prevent waste generation and reduce the use of final disposal systems by implementing ESM compliant recycling and recovery processes.

Partenariat
français pour
les déchets



French
solid waste
partnership



ESM of waste is essential if we are to succeed in achieving the following SDGs:

Targets to be proposed to raise awareness in other sectors on the importance of investing in waste management

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



- Ensure ESM of waste in order to reduce the risk of disease linked to 1/ the transfer of pathogens and 2/ diffuse pollution resulting from the management of products and waste. In particular, reduce the uncontrolled incineration of waste or open-air burning practices and replace landfill sites (whether uncontrolled or controlled) with ESM compliant final disposal solutions.

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



- Reduce waste generation and implement ESM of waste. In particular, replace open dumps and landfills (uncontrolled or controlled) with ESM compliant final disposal solutions* in order to achieve Target 6.3.

Managing waste to reduce the pollution that impacts the air, water and soil





ESM of waste is essential if we are to succeed in achieving the following SDGs:

Additional targets to be proposed

13 CLIMATE ACTION



- Reduce, capture and treat GHG emissions (methane, CO₂, N₂O) or black carbon resulting from waste management, while ensuring the sustainability of solutions and taking into account the degree of urgency based on the short-term warming potential of these compounds. Energy recovery from waste contributes to the reduction of GHGs by replacing fossil energy with energy produced mostly from renewable sources using the biogenic fraction of waste,
- Ensure urban cleanliness to reduce the risk of flooding resulting of the blocking of urban drains.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



- Reduce the leakage of solid waste into the terrestrial and aquatic environments, and to this end define the roles and responsibilities along the entire waste pathway on the land-sea continuum,
- Implementation of the ISO 59004 hierarchy of actions (refuse, rethink, eco-design, recycle, recover energy) to eliminate the transfer of substances of concern or problematic substances to aquatic and terrestrial environments.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- Reduce the material footprint by using models that require fewer natural resources and allow for the integration of recycled materials, in order to reduce local tensions (e.g: excessive mining) and international tensions (e.g: geopolitical war for the monopolization of natural resources).

Managing waste to reduce the pollution that impacts the air, water, soil and climate

Partenariat
français pour
les déchets

French
solid waste
partnership



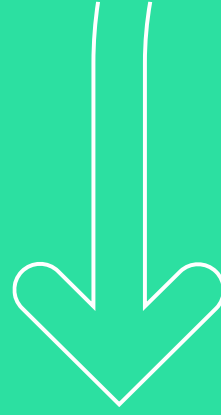
**Scan the QR code
and contribute to
the “Global Push”
for Resources and
Waste
Management !**



Partenariat
français pour
les déchets



French
solid waste
partnership



Part 2 : ESM of Waste



Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

Part 2 – ESM of Household Waste

Moderated by:



Corinne Trommsdorff

Executive Director French
Solid Waste Partnership



Julie Crêteau

Representative of Canada



Victoria Zhang

Solid Waste and Chemicals
Management Center,
Ministry of Ecology and
Environment, China



Camille Tahon

Programme Manager,
Climate and Clean Air
Coalition



Household Waste Partnership

**Guidance document
Environmentally Sound
Management of household
waste**

Objective, Scope & Audience



Objective - Improve knowledge on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of household waste

Scope – All wastes collected from household

Audience - For decision makers at all levels of government and industry, businesses, communities and individuals involved in the management of household waste

Guidance - Management of Household Waste



Separation
at source



Separate hazardous from non-hazardous waste (paint, batteries, biodegradable, recyclables)

Collection methods
frequency



Door-to-door, bring points, deposit
Higher for recyclable/compostable
waste versus non recyclable)

Storage
Transportation



Storage bin, storage requirements,
type of vehicle

Guidance - Disposal of Household Waste



Recycling



Paper, metal, plastic, glass

Composting



Benefit of composting, methods

Final disposal



Incineration, landfilling

Essential reading & case studies



Essential reading

17 Basel Convention reference documents

- Landfilling
- Incineration
- Recycling
- Informal sector
- Plastic waste

Country initiatives

- Waste sorting strategies
- Organic waste
- Textile waste

ESM of waste in action!

Case studies from China



Victoria Zhang

Solid Waste and Chemicals
Management Center,
Ministry of Ecology and
Environment, China

Case studies from Togo



Camille Tahon

Programme Manager,
Climate and Clean Air
Coalition

01 **Part One**

厦门低值可回收物分拣中心

**Xiamen Sorting Center for Low-
Value Recyclables**

政策引领与创新模式 **Policy Guidance and Innovative Initiatives**

Policy Background and Demands for Environmental Protection

- China's annual municipal solid waste (MSW) collection volume exceeds 300 million tons, with low-value recyclables accounting for 45% to 50%.
- The first sorting center for low-value recyclables was built and start operation in Xiamen of China at the end of 2022.
- Innovation to collection of recyclables.



Innovation Model and Concept of Project

Multi-stakeholder involvement:

- Mixed-ownership company with cooperation between state-owned and private enterprises.
- Mechanism led by the government, responsible by state-owned enterprises and operated by private enterprises; integrating the advantages of all parties.

技术应用与效益分析 Technology Application and Benefit Analysis



Application of the Technologies for Smarter Sorting

- Sorting accuracy > 95%
- Continuous and efficient sorting
- Flexible adjusting sorting parameters for fluctuations in the accuracy rate of garbage classification and disposal in the front-end community



Win-win for Economic and Social Benefits

- **Economic effect:** the revenue is more than 27 million dollars per year
- **Environmental effect:** contribution to carbon emission reduction (6,400 tons/year) and the conservation of petroleum resources
- **Social effect:** public awareness rising

02 **Part Two**

青岛城阳区智能回收体系

**Qingdao Smart Recycling System
of Chengyang District**

案例介绍与亮点做法 Case Introduction and Highlight Practice



- Area: over 580 km²
- Population: 1.17 million
- Service Provider: Ai Huishou (loving recycling)
- Number of smart recyclable collection devices (similar to vending machines): 568
- Coverage: 214 residence communities
- Usage frequency : over 40,000 visits/day
- Recycling volume: nearly 30 tons/day



- All recyclables accepted
- 24-hour service, easy drop-off, automatic weighing and scoring, cash back system
- Connecting citizens to recycling centers: standardized collection devices & stations and transportation services
- Big data + algorithms: AI technology optimization, whole-process traceability

Thank you for your attention



Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center,
Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China

Email: zhangzhe@meesc.cn

Tel: +86-10-8466-5961



Camille Tahon

Programme Manager,
Climate and Clean Air
Coalition

THE CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR COALITION

A UNEP-led initiative since 2012

- Global, voluntary partnership of committed countries and organizations

Focused on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs):

- Potent climate forcers driving ~50% of global warming
- Harmful air pollutants affecting health, ecosystems, and agriculture

Waste sector: a major SLCP source

- Open dumping and burning of organic waste emits methane and black carbon
- Simultaneous mitigation of SLCPs and CO₂ is the best possible scenario for slowing warming in near-term

CCAC supports global action

- Funding and partnering to advance sustainable waste management



CASE STUDIES: CCAC PROJECTS IN TOGO

TOGO WASTE MANAGEMENT ROADMAP



LOME WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN



- **Wide consultations:** government, municipalities, private sector, academia to reflect needs of all actors
- **Turns strategy into action** by outlining key priorities
- **Broad ownership** strengthens implementation potential
- **Align local actions with international climate commitments**

WE NEED A GLOBAL PUSH



Implementing ESM strategies helps translate plans into concrete local actions



Waste and its climate impacts, especially SLCPs, are often overlooked but must be addressed



Collaborative, multi-stakeholder processes ensure more inclusive and effective outcomes



Link to the video



Successful ESM of waste depends on all stakeholders playing their part!

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



MÉCANISMES ET NIVEAUX D'ACTION	Politiques publiques et mise en œuvre	Mécanismes de financement	Aménagement du territoire	Formation et recherche	Prévention et actions spécifiques		
					Éducation, communication, sensibilisation	Évolution des modes de production	Évolution des modèles économiques
Institutions internationales (ONU, ISO...)	Définir des obligations légalement contraignantes, des normes et des exigences communes ; Conclure des accords et les faire respecter ; Promouvoir la coopération internationale ; Attribuer les rôles et responsabilités.	Définir des mécanismes, cadres et obligations financières pour la coopération internationale ; Soutenir le développement des fonds de solidarité.		Établir des centres de formation, de soutien technique, de transfert de technologies, et d'échange de connaissances (par exemple, conventions de Bâle et de Stockholm) pour une transition juste.	Instaurer une journée « zéro déchet » ; Introduire et mettre en œuvre les ODD.	Fixer des normes.	Établir des accords et les faire respecter.
Institutions financières internationales (IFI)		Financer des projets.	Inciter par leur cahier des charges.	Inciter par leur cahier des charges.	Inciter par leur cahier des charges.		
ONG internationales		Distribuer les fonds de solidarité.		Élaborer des programmes de sensibilisation du public.	Élaborer des programmes de sensibilisation du public.	Plaidoyer.	Plaidoyer.
ONG nationales	Plaidoyer.					Plaidoyer ; Encourager et permettre l'entrepreneuriat social.	Plaidoyer ; Encourager et permettre l'entrepreneuriat social.
Gouvernements et organes législatifs nationaux ou supranationaux (y compris l'UE)	Définir des stratégies nationales, la réglementation et la mise en œuvre ; Fixer des normes minimales ; Veiller au respect de la loi ; Attribuer les rôles et responsabilités.	Mettre en place une fiscalité favorisant le recouvrement des coûts ; Mettre en place un système d'imposition et des incitations adaptées ; Attribuer les budgets ; Attribuer les fonds de solidarité internationale.	Régler l'acquisition de base planifiée ; Encourager la planification.	Organiser des campagnes de communication nationales.	Organiser des campagnes de communication nationales.	Fixer des normes.	Établir des accords et les faire respecter.
Entreprises (producteurs, détaillants)		Mettre en œuvre les filières REP.		Se coordonner avec les instituts de recherche locaux pour adapter les innovations au contexte local ; Développer les connaissances et compétences de leur main d'œuvre.	Mettre en œuvre des campagnes de sensibilisation nationales.	Plaidoyer ; Innover.	Plaidoyer ; Innover.
Autorités locales	Établir la vision politique, la stratégie et les objectifs locaux ; Faire des choix organisationnels ; Définir les conditions des partenariats public-privé.	Définir les frais de service et allocations budgétaires pour les investissements.	Collecter des données de référence et de suivi ; Assurer la coordination entre les secteurs et entre les juridictions adjacentes ; Permettre la mutualisation entre les territoires.	Se coordonner avec les instituts de recherche locaux pour adapter les innovations au contexte local ; Développer les connaissances et compétences de leur main d'œuvre.	Mettre en œuvre des campagnes de sensibilisation nationales.	Encourager et soutenir les innovations locales.	Encourager et soutenir les innovations locales.
Opérateurs privés de gestion des déchets		Mettre en œuvre des modèles d'entreprise durables.	Faciliter la mutualisation entre les territoires.	Innover.	Élaborer et diffuser des programmes, en amplifier la portée.		
Citoyens	Voter.	Payer des impôts.	Participer.	Apprendre et adopter des comportements améliorés.	Amplifier la portée des campagnes de communication.	Choisir des options moins génératrices de déchets.	Choisir de payer pour l'impact environnemental et social des produits.



Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

Part 3 – The role of the informal recycling sector with a focus on gender mainstreaming

Moderated by:



Corinne Trommsdorff

Executive Director French
Solid Waste Partnership



Maria Tsakona

Senior Expert, GRID-Arendal



Griffins Ochieng

Programmes Coordinator, Center for
Environment Justice and Development

The role of the informal recycling sector with a focus on gender mainstreaming

AN INTRODUCTION

Maria Chr. Tsakona,
Senior Waste Expert

The Informal Recycling Sector

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and a brown backpack, is seen from the side, sorting through a large pile of scrap metal and plastic waste. The ground is covered with various items including old tires, plastic bottles, and metal fragments. In the background, there are more piles of waste and some structures. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a scrap collection center.

*“The informal recycling sector recovers and handles **nearly 108 million metric tonnes of plastic, metal, glass and paper waste for recycling each year.**”* (WHITE PAPER- UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS & GRID-ARENDAL, 2024)

Enumerators collect data from a waste picker as he sorts material at one of Lalitpur's scrap collection centres.

Contribution of the Informal Recycling Sector

- Divert enormous volumes of waste from landfills into value chains
- Contribute to resource efficiency, recycling targets and climate goals
- Provide the “missing” waste management services in many cities
- Contribute significantly to cleaner cities
- Improve the livelihoods of informal workers
- Contribute to poverty alleviation



Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Providing waste collection and recycling in urban areas, the sector contributes to creating clean and sustainable cities. Improve waste collection efficiency and promote recycling.
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production:** Informal waste workers are critical in promoting the recycling and proper disposal of waste, which is essential for sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **SDG 13: Climate Action:** By reducing waste sent to landfills and promoting recycling and waste reduction, informal waste workers contribute directly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change impacts.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** SDG 8 can be advanced by promoting decent work and economic opportunities for marginalized workers.
- **SDG 1: No Poverty:** Informal waste workers often come from vulnerable and low-income communities. By providing them with formal recognition, support, and access to social protections, their income levels can be improved, contributing to poverty alleviation.

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Women Powering The Informal Recycling Sector

Significant Participation

Women constitute a large part of the informal recycling workforce, contributing to sustainability and waste management efforts.

Roles in Recycling

Women take on essential roles as collectors, sorters, and sellers within the informal recycling sector,

A set of diverse skills

Showcasing diverse skills. Performing well in painstaking and time-intensive tasks. They are great sorters.



In Africa, more than 50% of the informal waste workers are women and in Vietnam, women make up 65% of all informal waste collectors (USAID CCBO 2021). In many cities across India 80% of waste pickers are women (UNDP, 2013).

Unequal Burden

Limited Access to Resources

Women in the informal recycling sector often struggle with limited access to essential resources and high-value materials, affecting their productivity and income.

Gender Discrimination

Disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work impacting their opportunities for advancement and fair treatment.

Gender Based Violence and Harassment

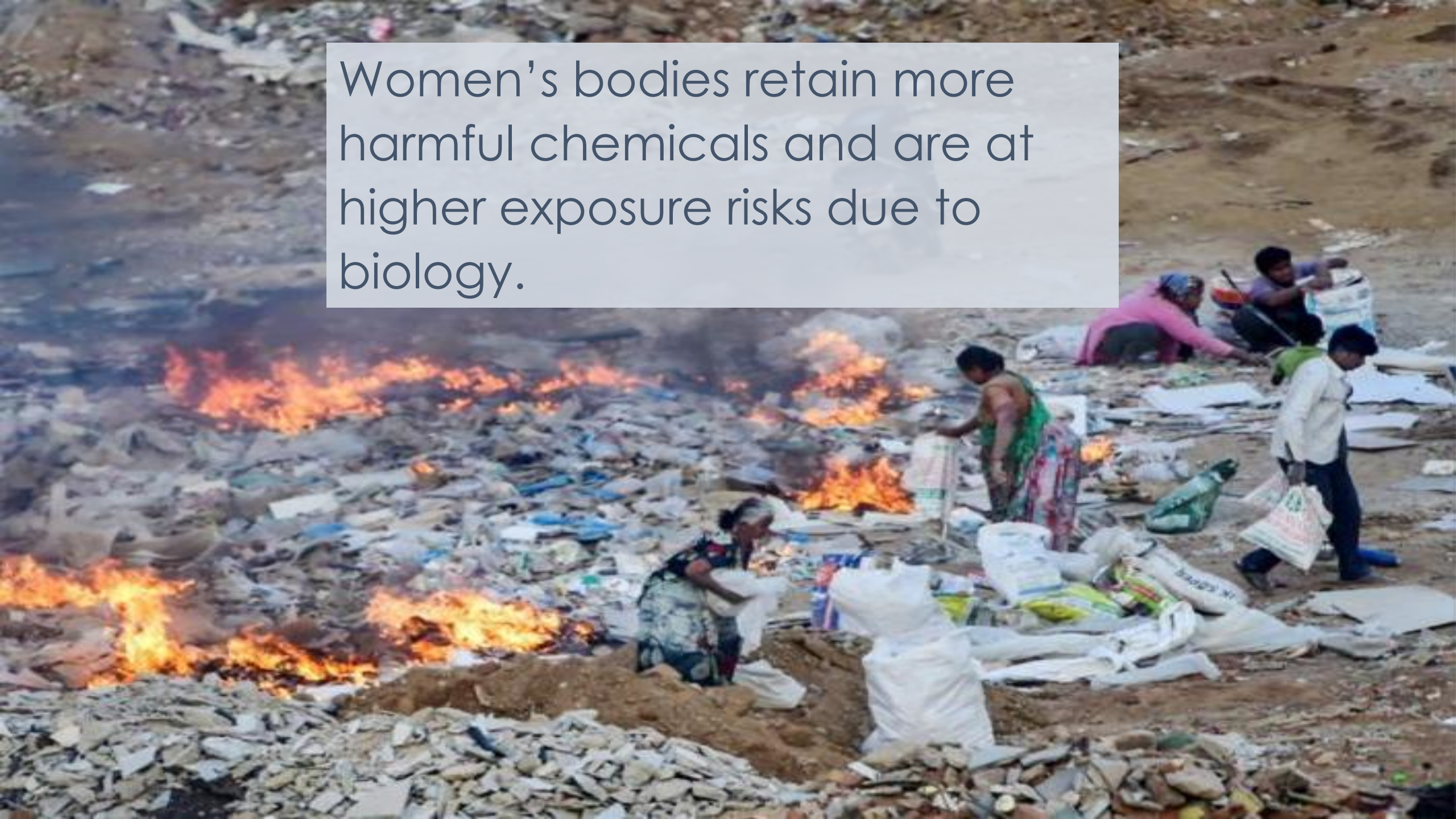
Harassment, violation, and individual attacks leading to physical, mental, and sexual exploitation;

Safety and Health Concerns

Safety concerns are prevalent for women in informal recycling, as they often work in hazardous conditions without adequate protection.



Women's bodies retain more harmful chemicals and are at higher exposure risks due to biology.



A photograph of two women in a recycling facility. The woman in the foreground is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and a green hijab, looking towards the camera. The woman in the background is wearing a red t-shirt and a yellow hijab, giving a thumbs up. They are surrounded by large white sacks of recycled material, some with 'VOLVO' and 'PAKAN UYU' printed on them. The facility has a corrugated metal wall and a window showing greenery outside.

Gender mainstreaming isn't just a buzzword—it's a necessity.

For more information

www.grida.no

maria.tsakona@grida.no



Photo credit: Nitzsche G. ISWA WoWI TF India



Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

**Case study – Kenya and Planned Project in Rwanda
and Zambia**

By

Griffins Ochieng,

Executive Director, CEJAD

7th May 2025

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland



About CEJAD



Centre for Environment
Justice and Development

www.cejadkenya.org | @CEJADKenya

- A public interest Non-Governmental Organization in Kenya.
- Founded in 2012
- **Vision:** A just and sustainable society free of toxic chemicals and waste.
- **Mission:** To promote sound management of chemicals and waste to protect human health and environment. .



Programs



1. Toxic Plastics & Waste

- ✓ POPs Elimination (Open burning, Chemicals in Plastic Toxic Plastic Recycling, Policy)
- ✓ Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in plastics awareness

2. Highly Hazardous Pesticides

- ✓ Phase out of HHPs
- ✓ Protect Farmers

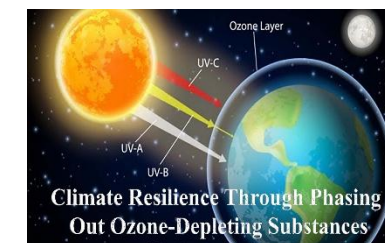
3. Heavy Metals (Lead & Mercury)

- ✓ Lead Paint Elimination & Poisoning Prevention
- ✓ Artisanal Gold Mining
- ✓ Dental Amalgam Phase down
- ✓ Mercury Cosmetics, Lamps phase out

+ Global Policy: BRS, Minamata & Plastics Treaty

4. Ozone and Climate

- ✓ Phase out of ODS and HFC (accelerating Kigali amendment)
- ✓ Organic waste and Methane Reduction



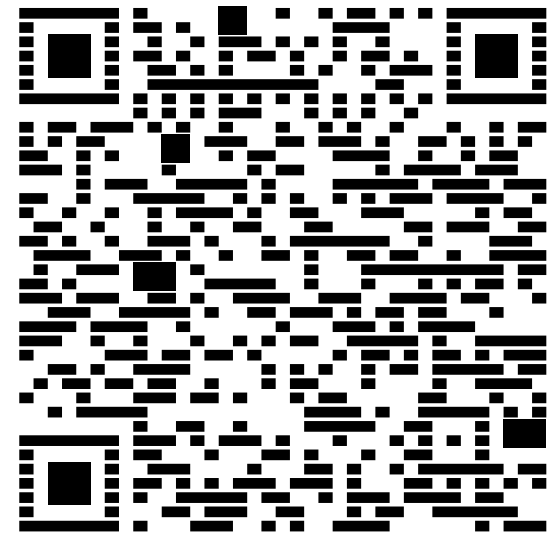
NEW

TACKLING TOXICS

CASE STUDIES KENYA & TUNISIA 2022



**GENDER DIMENSIONS OF
CHEMICALS AND WASTE
POLICIES IN RELATION
TO BRS CONVENTIONS**



[WECF.org/Resources](https://wecf.org/Resources)



Aims to understand 3 gender dimensions:

- How are **women and men differently impacted** in their health by hazardous chemicals and waste?
- How do women and men's **occupations and the roles at home and at work** influence exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste?
- What **best practices** with women and men's leadership exist to substitute and eliminate hazardous chemicals and waste?



Policy Status Quo

KENYA

- New Constitution since 2010 – legislative framework for implementing National Gender and Equality Act 2011, Key Treaties CEDAW & Maputo Protocol 2019 National Policy on Gender & Development
- Article 42: Right of a clean and healthy environment (aim to half all environment-related diseases)
- 2022: Sustainable Waste Management Act (EPR regulations, 2024)



Good practices identified

- Biogas production from waste Waste separation, collection & recycling
- Replacing bad pesticides
- Ending gender-based violence in the workplace
- Women's entrepreneurship for a transition to green and circular economy
- Training on smart agro-ecological systems



Good practices identified in Kenya



Conclusions on gender mainstreaming

Gender data and analysis	Legal and institutional	Barriers to equality
Scoping studies on different impacts and roles (by sex) predominantly about males	Gender equality strongly anchored in Constitution/Laws	Public policies to reduce burden of care on women lack: e.g. affordable healthcare, (pre-)schools
Laboratory analysis e.g. POPs in human body (by sex) predominantly about males	Government policies include gender equality analysis and plan, but lack resources	Policies for equal decision-making women & men in public/private sector: less in rural, informal sectors
Monitoring chemical's use and restrictions & gender roles need specific resources for women	Public and private sector integrate gender equality in institutions, including on SEAH	Policies to ensure work and living spaces are free of sexual violence: mostly voluntary basis, not enforced



Recommendations

Gender-equality requires a multi-sectorial and multi-faceted approach by government and other actors

- A) Equal Participation and Leadership to advance gender equality in relation to chemicals and waste
- B) Capacity building and Gender Data
- C) Access to finance and resources for gender equality and women's empowerment
- D) Gender-equal Just transition to sustainable and toxic-free economies



Case Study- Rwanda and Zambia

- Project Period: March 2025 – December 2025
- Overall objective: Enhance understanding of the important role of women and vulnerable groups, including informal sector workers, in the management of plastic waste

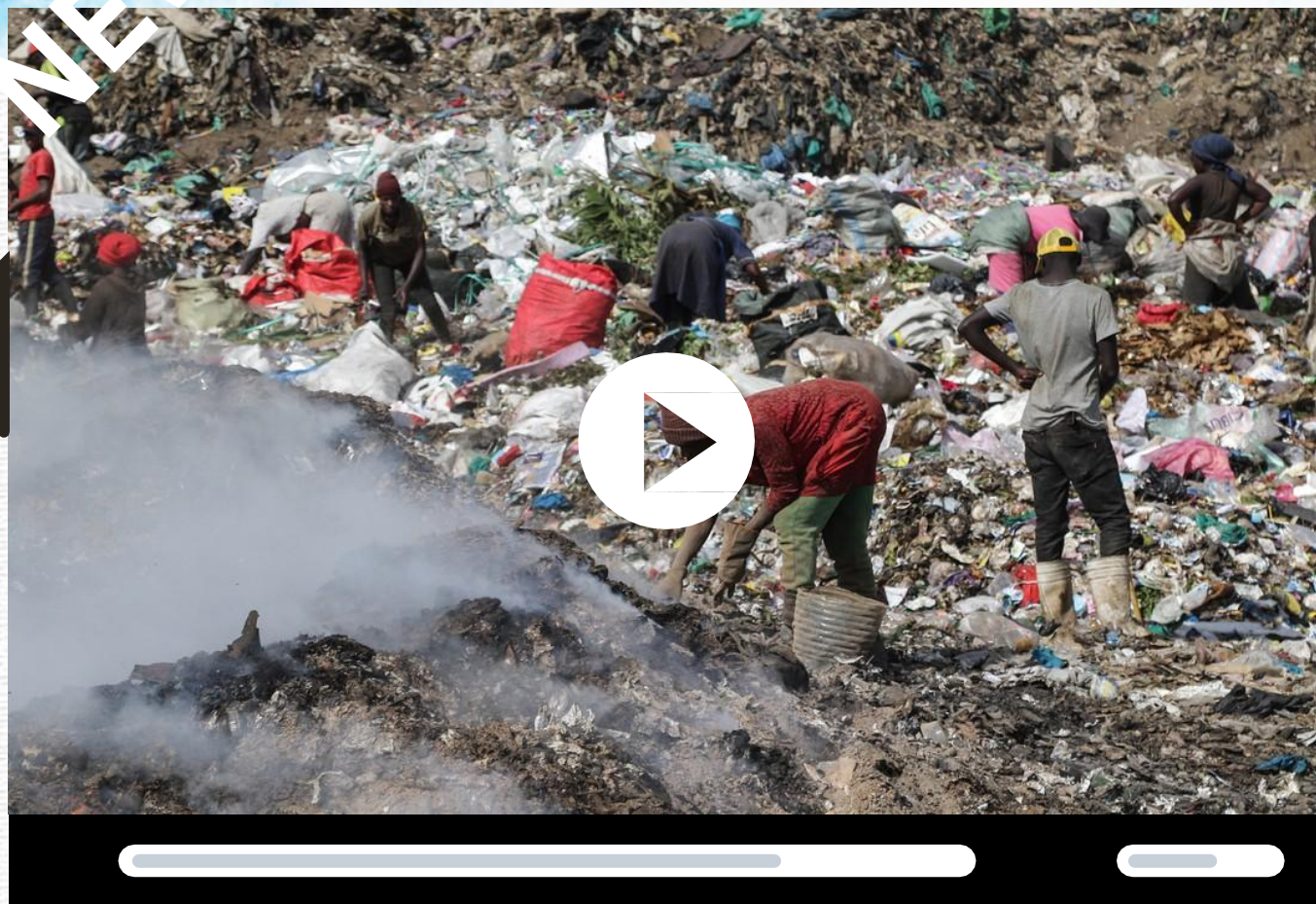




Activities/Expected Deliverables

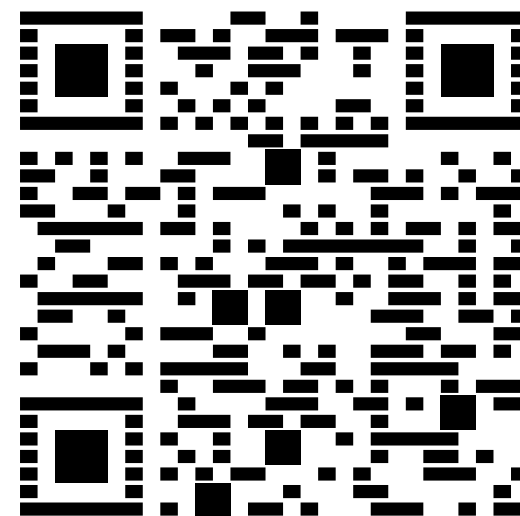
- **Situation Analysis Reports for Zambia and Rwanda:** country-specific study on the role of women and vulnerable groups, including informal sector workers, in plastic waste and chemicals management.
- **Best Practices:** Research on successful grassroots enterprises led by women and/or informal sector workers, **key success factors for potential replication across multiple countries**
- **Community Leadership Training:** modules and awareness programs for national, regional, and community leaders representing women and informal sector workers, focus on environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste.
- **Policy and programmatic recommendations** -improve involvement of women and informal sector workers in plastic waste management integrating gender sensitive and inclusive policies

NEW



WATCH THE NEW DOCUMENTARY

TACKLING TOXICS



Go to youtube.com/wecfeu



Make Visible
the **INVISIBLE**
Sound management of chemicals and wastes



UN
environment
programme



A comprehensive geographically tailored capacity-building program promoting a Just Transition of Women in the Informal Recycling Sector

Maria Chr. Tsakona
Senior Waste and Marine Litter Expert



A UNEP Partner

7th of May 2025

PAMFA

She moved with her family to Nepal to make a better living. For her, turning waste into opportunity is a daily reality.

Challenges

No legal recognition

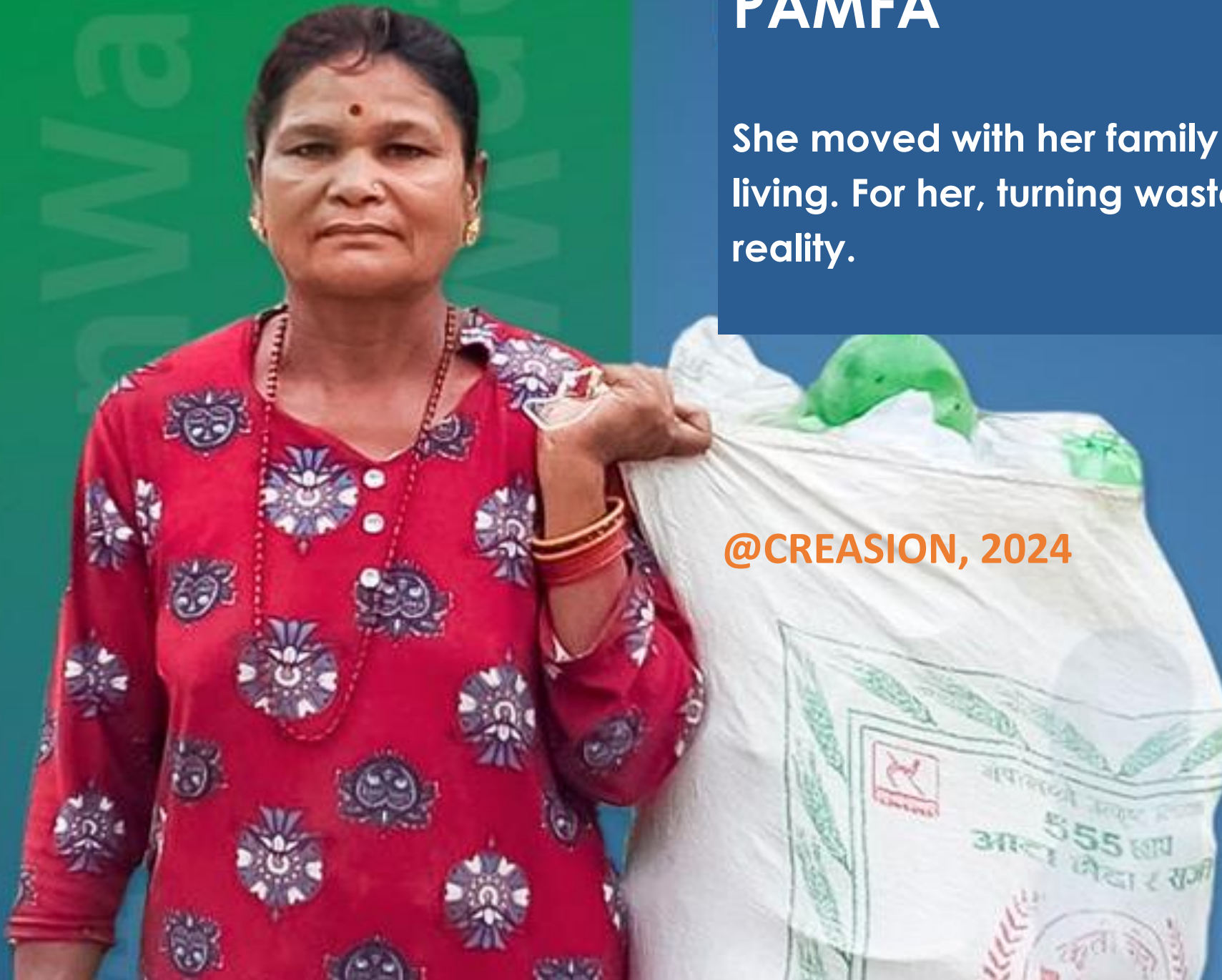
Social discrimination by her community

Health hazards and safety issues at work

No social protection

Very low earnings

@CREASION, 2024



PAMFA

After attending transformative capacity-building training, she now collects more and of better-quality recyclables and sells them at a better price to scrap centers, which provide her family's primary income by collecting others' discards.

@CREASION, 2024



A Seat at the Table

The Role of the Informal Recycling Sector
in Plastic Pollution Reduction, and
Recommended Policy Changes



Just Transition



Justice for all



Green economy



A voice at work



Equality



Safe Working
Conditions



Protecting the environment



Poverty eradication green
jobs Opportunities



Fair income

Source: International Labour Organization

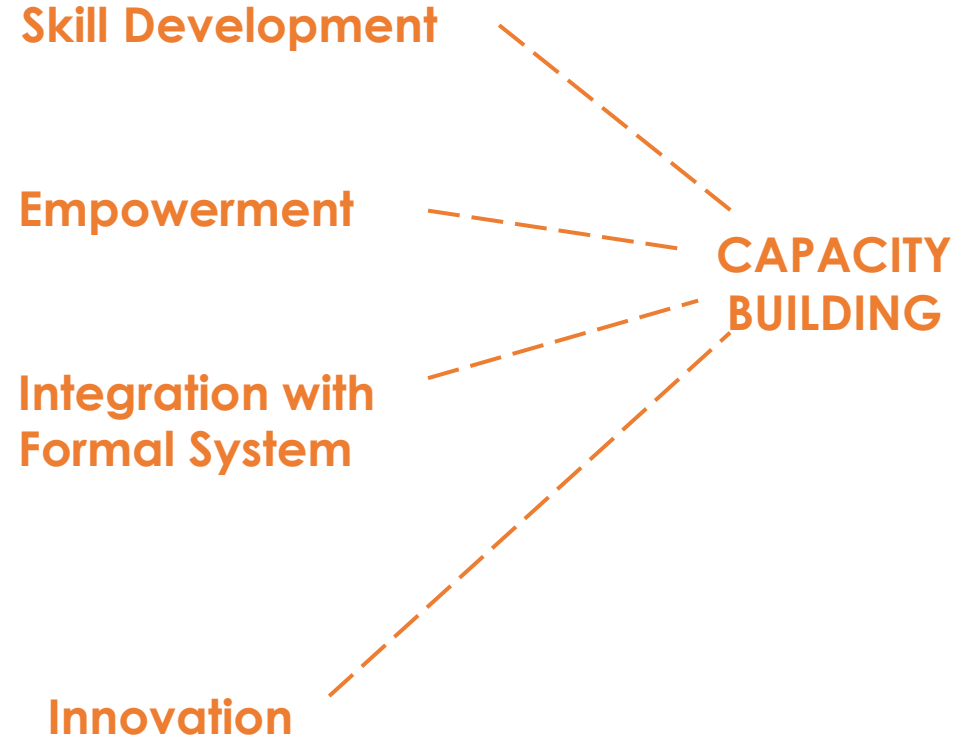
Why Capacity-Building?

Skill Development in waste management techniques, recycling processes, and occupational health and safety practices.

Empower informal workers to negotiate better terms with formal waste management stakeholders, access resources, and advocate for their rights and recognition.


Integrating informal sector workers into the formal waste management system and EPR schemes; improved coordination, resource sharing, and a more sustainable waste management model.

Foster **innovation** in recycling techniques, resource recovery, and circular economy practices within the sector.



Geographically Tailored Approaches

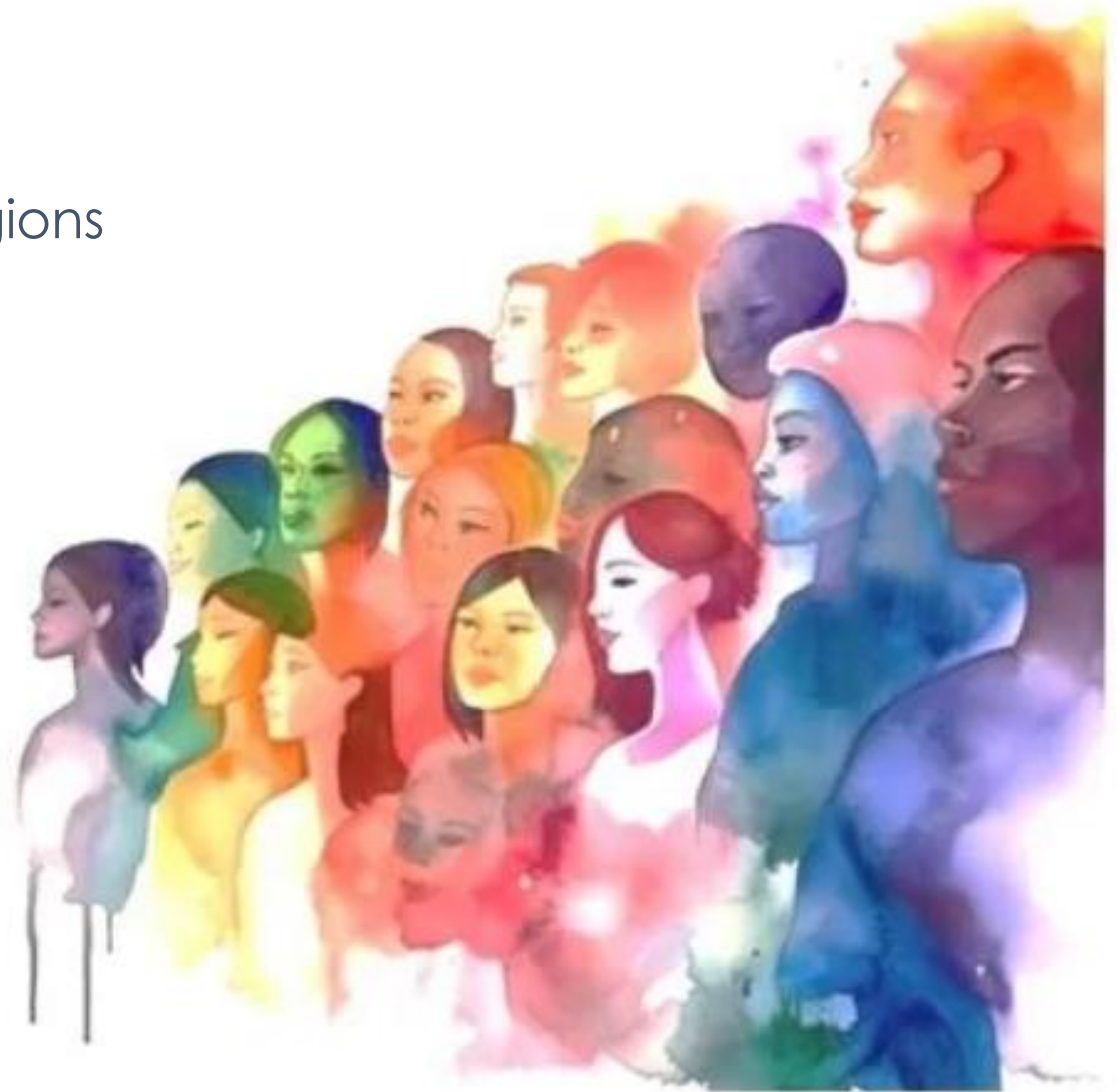
local norms, economic conditions, and existing structures to support recyclers effectively



Region	Tailored Actions
Africa	Language-specific training; address urban-rural divides; women-focused modules
Latin America	Leverage municipal support; promote recycler cooperatives
Southeast Asia	Linkages to manufacturing supply chains; safety gear adoption
Middle East/North Africa	Work within regulatory barriers; integrate refugee populations

Gender-Inclusive Capacity Building

- Women make up 50–80% of IRS in many regions
- Gender-sensitive training
- Leadership training for women
- Childcare and flexible training schedules

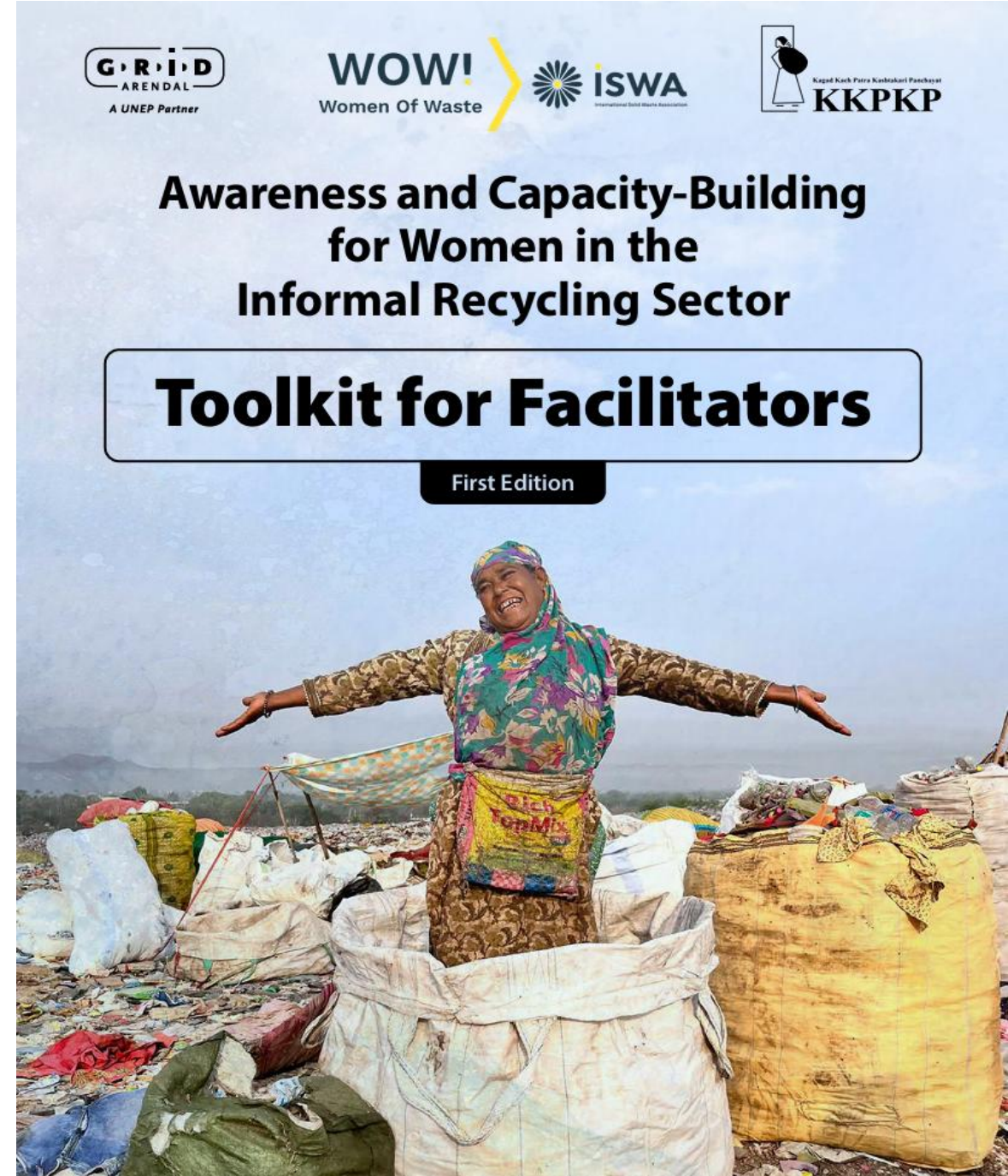


The Toolkit...

.... a series of training modules for awareness and capacity building of women of the informal waste sector around the world to promote their just transition.

Train the Trainer Model

The Toolkit is for anyone who works directly with women of the IRS, including waste pickers associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, initiatives and professional trainers.



<https://www.grida.no/publications/1892>

Main Pillars

1. **Skills development and raising awareness:** Enhance business and financial skills, increase understanding of the value chain, global market trends for recyclables, quality collection and sorting techniques, etc.
2. **Work conduct:** Focusing on mental and physical health, workplace safety, provision of personal protective equipment (PPE), and promoting equality among workers of the IRS.
3. **Internal interactions/structures:** Raise awareness of the value of organizing, fostering cooperation through operating cooperatives, and enhancing collaboration among IRS workers.
4. **External interactions/structures:** Educating the IRS on governance mechanisms and regulations pertaining to their rights.





**Kisumu,
Kenya**

Women of Waste Session



"Towards a wasteless future or a
wasteful planet?"

October 27-29
Buenos Aires, Argentina



WOW!
Women Of Waste



iSWA
International Solid Waste Association

○
Thank you!

For more information

www.grida.no
maria.tsakona@grida.no



Photo credit: Nitzsche G. ISWA Wow! TF, India

Questions & Discussion

Waste in the Spotlight: A Call for Sound Management & Global Action

Conclusion remarks



Rolph Payet

Executive Secretary of
the BRS Conventions



**Scan the QR code and
contribute to the “Global
Push” for Resources and
Waste Management !**



Thank you !

**Our presence here is made
possible by all our members, and
additional support by**



Partenariat
français pour
les déchets

French
solid waste
partnership