

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

Fiji faces a serious challenges in the waste management sector. The challenges have been amplified by increased economic activities, population growth and urbanization. The Rapid urbanization has been accompanied by increasing number of informal settlements where amount of waste collected has tripled from 3% to 9% in a year.

CURRENT STATUS

Fiji's 2013 Constitution states that "Every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment". The Municipal councils in Fiji are tasked to manage solid waste in respective municipalities. The growing population and increasing waste production requires attention, as the current landfills and dumpsites will not be able to cater for the increase in waste produced. Illegal dumping further escalates the issue.

CHALLENGES

1. *Increased Waste Production in informal settlements:* Informal Settlement produces high volumes of waste with inadequate disposal facilities and collection.
2. *Lack of adequate and regulations:* Need to improve regulations surrounding solid waste management, and illegal waste disposal.
3. *Lack of appropriate fleet:* Need for more fleet to enhance garbage collection services.
4. *Inappropriate disposal of clinical/medical waste:* waste such as amputated body parts, medical and surgical waste is exposing environment and surrounding people to health threats.

5. *Lack of recycling initiatives:* Only a negligible portion of waste is recycled, which requires more support.

FUTURE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

➤ **Ensure environment protection and sound waste management:**

- ✓ Enhance community advocacy and engagement on environmental risks and challenges.
- ✓ Establish waste recirculation projects.
- ✓ Increase frequency of garbage collection.
- ✓ Establish incinerators at hospitals.
- ✓ Establish community composting facilities.
- ✓ Promote prevention, recycling, reduction, and reuse.
- ✓ Increase the number of landfills.

➤ **Strengthen Regulations surrounding Solid Waste Management:**

- ✓ Strengthen the enforcement of environmental legislations and regulations.
- ✓ Finalize landfill guidelines.
- ✓ Implement mandatory sorting of waste at source/ or transfer stations.
- ✓ Review and update the National Waste Management Policy.
- ✓ Explore the feasibility of Waste Management Authority.