

Waste Management Outlook for  
**WEST ASIA**  
2019

**SUMMARY FOR DECISION-MAKERS**



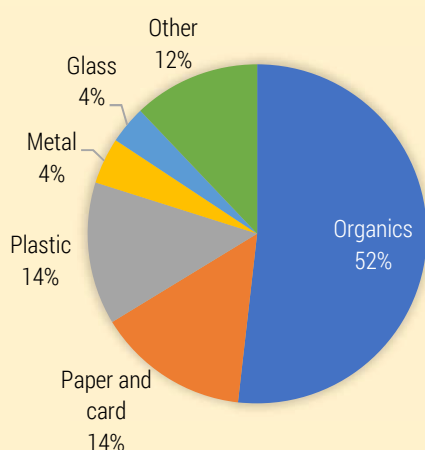
# Status of Waste Management in West Asia

## Waste Generation

About **60.4 million** tons of municipal solid waste was generated in West Asia in 2016, with the informal sector collecting an estimated 7.1 per cent of this and about 16.8 per cent remaining uncollected.

## Waste Composition

The organic fraction in regional municipal solid waste averages more than 50 per cent, and it is likely that **85 per cent of this is food waste**.



## Waste Governance

All countries have developed waste governance, which establishes key strategic goals and guiding principles. They are at various levels of implementation.

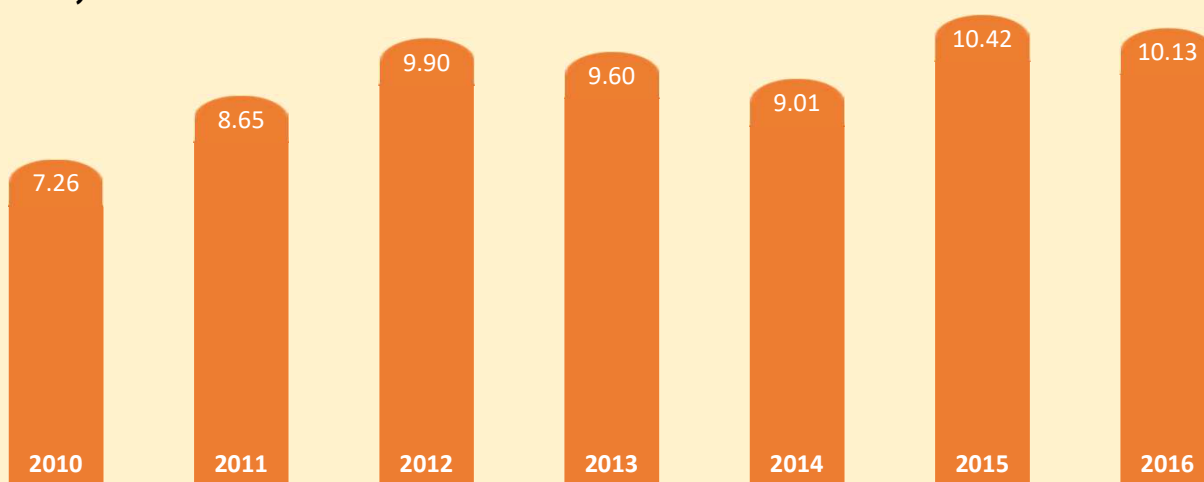
## Waste Collection

Municipal solid waste collection coverage for GCC countries may range between 97 percent and 100 per cent. Across the entire region, the percentage of municipal solid waste that is collected for treatment and disposal has **decreased from 84.3 per cent in 2010 to 82.1 per cent in 2016**, reflecting a period of conflict in the region.

## Waste Treatment

An estimated 5.7 million tons going to treatment operations such as sorting and composting plants. The current treatment **capacity deficiency is about 46.4 million tons**, which includes uncollected municipal solid waste.

## Estimated Uncollected Waste in West Asia (million tons)



# Sustainable Development Goals: What needs to be done?

Key targets and waste-related 2020 and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved by most West Asian countries by developing sound governance, planning and implementation measures, as well as by securing the necessary resources to ensure their achievement



By **2020** Eliminate uncontrolled dumping and open burning

Regionally, countries are at very early stage of efforts in this area. Phasing out open dumping by 2020 will be difficult across most countries in the region, with only few countries likely to achieve the goal by 2020.



By **2020** Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable solid waste collection services

Open dumping issues are likely to take many years to implement, but GCC countries are particularly likely to meet the 2020 collection target. Such a target in the West Asian region could only be fully achieved by 2030 with prioritized international funding, particularly for additional waste collection and or supporting integrated waste management treatment facilities.

## One of the Rehabilitated Uncontrolled Dumpsites in the Region



By **2030** Ensure the sustainable and environmentally sound management of all wastes, particularly hazardous wastes

Ensuring that all hazardous wastes are brought under sound control will require country waste monitoring and/or tracking systems to actively identify and control all waste movements to authorized sites that provide secure, safe and contained transport, storage, treatment and disposal and/or export, particularly for hazardous wastes requiring specialized treatment.



By **2030** Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention and the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and thereby create green jobs

Reduce industrial waste generation at source through waste prevention, resource efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes

Reducing the rate of waste growth is primarily a supply chain issue requiring the introduction of regulations mandating extended producer responsibility. Recycling measures will be improved through, for example, polymer identification and labelling of plastics, and product design focused on the principles of circular economy.



By **2030** Halve global per capita food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses in the supply chain

Halving per capita food waste includes the aspect of prevention. This requires extended producer responsibility regulations with reduction targets for food waste applied by supply chain businesses.

# The Way Forward

## The Holistic Approach at the National and Local Level

The authorities often view waste management as a budget-driven service where cost savings can be made during economic downturns and increased funding provided during economic growth periods.

There is a need to increase budget spending to develop appropriate integrated waste management infrastructure in all West Asian countries.

To achieve this, waste management planners must take a truly holistic approach that not only involves the authorities and waste management businesses, but also works with a wide range of stakeholders.

Adopt a holistic approach in coordinating actions to establish and engage with the circular economy through:

- proactive governance supporting the utilization of wastes as resources, removing barriers where appropriate
- the establishment of strategies and plans to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets
- supporting and funding municipal authorities' waste procurement programs
- furthering economic development by working with funders, universities and research organizations to identify and achieve circular economy best practices and value-adding technology applications, utilizing modern electronic and smart systems
- encouraging and incentivizing competitive processes to develop country waste treatment systems that are economically viable and cover as wide a range of wastes as practicable
- providing or facilitating financial support through the sustainable financing mechanisms

## Prioritize Solutions at the Top of the Hierarchy

