

## Policy Brief 33

# Reforming the Solid Waste Management System: The Case of Rural Areas in Egypt



## Executive Summary

The policy paper tackles the issue of managing solid waste in rural areas in Egypt. It mainly targets the reform of the solid waste management system. The authors deal with rural areas specifically due to their importance and significance. In this context, the policy paper research demonstrated that the current solid waste management system in the governorates studied has a number of flaws and limitations. These issues show the inadequate solid waste management technical performance at the governorate level in terms of institutional, technical, financial, economic, and environmental factors, due to the lack of or ineffective solid waste management departments in local government.

Mapping stakeholders, previous and current legal frameworks were discussed in dealing with the solid waste management system in Egypt in general, and rural areas specifically. The papers reviewed the current Law #202 for 2020 about solid waste management, and the Environmental Protection Law#4 for 1994, and its effect on managing the solid waste in rural areas. The policy paper suggests and assesses four policy alternatives, based on five criteria: efficiency, effectiveness, political acceptance, equity and financial.

At the end, the paper provides a set of recommendations that are essential to support the successful implementation. However, the researchers agreed on one core policy that is cost efficient and is considered the most important. The selected policy alternative is the establishment of a national-wide campaign in the Egyptian rural areas that aims to raise the individuals' awareness on the economic, social and health aspects of the issue as well as how to reduce generating waste, increase waste reuse, and facilitate the segregation of waste.

## Background and Problem Statement

The data and information gathered demonstrate that the current solid waste management system in the governorates studied has a number of flaws and limitations. These issues show the inadequate solid waste management technical performance at the governorate level in terms of institutional, technical, financial, economic, and environmental factors.

Furthermore, poor solid waste management methods have increased health and environmental dangers, jeopardizing the achievement of sustainable development goals. These shortcomings in local cleansing organizations have also resulted in extremely high rates of garbage accumulation in cities. These issues place a strain on local government, necessitating an integrated management approach, as shown in Sustainable Solid Waste Management.

In most cases, the lack of or ineffective solid waste management departments in local government has resulted in poor planning, execution, and effective control of solid waste management activities at the governorate, city, and village levels throughout Egypt. Delays in decision-making and institutional flaws have hampered the provision of efficient services due to dispersed duties among various individuals and departments. The current state of institutional frameworks at the local level frequently discourages professional growth, limiting the ability of local management to attract qualified employees to work in waste management.

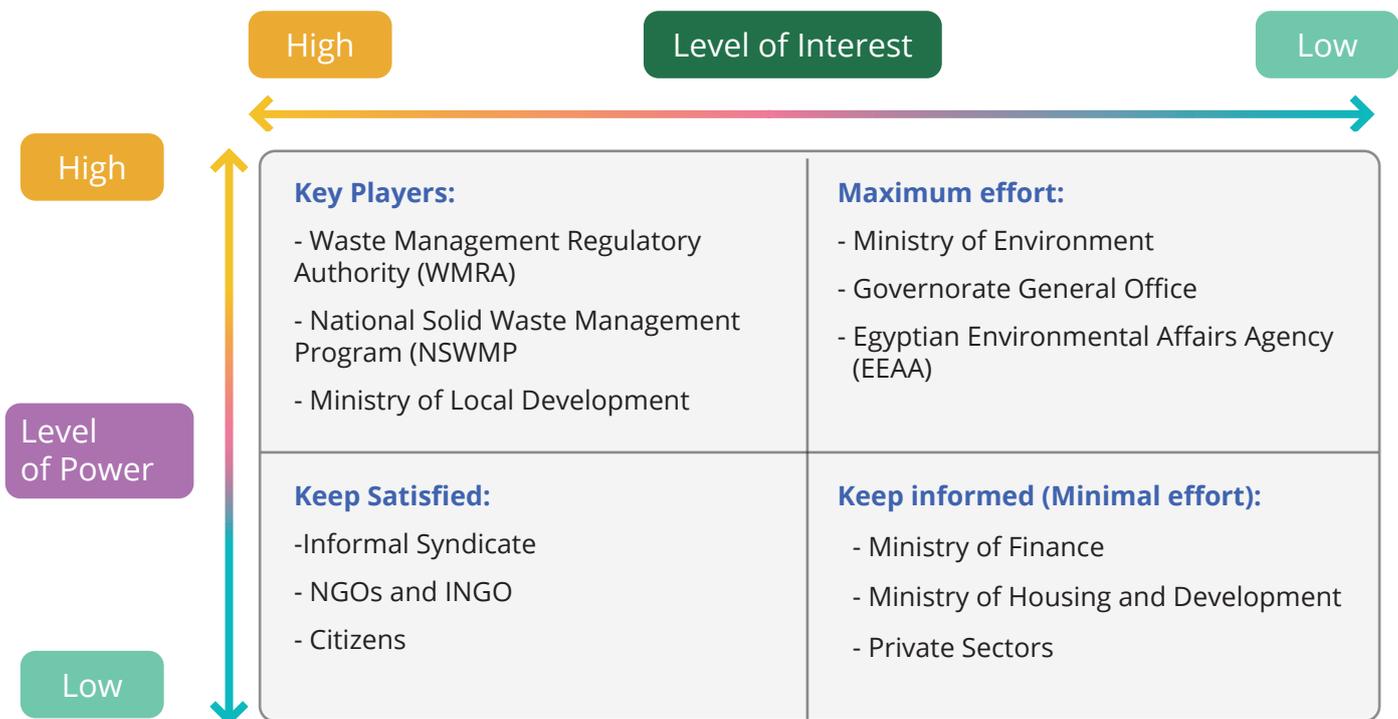
Additionally, there is a core challenge with solid waste management's financial model. After analyzing the given information through desk research and content analysis, the information clarified that the inability to perform a properly functioning model goes back to the deficits and financial shortage the system is suffering from.



The Solid Waste Management topic involves a number of significant counterparts and stakeholders that play a key role in terms of power and interest, and they are responsible for shaping the outcomes and contributions to the process of the solid waste management. The Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA), the National Solid Waste Management Project (NSWMP), and the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) are considered the main key actors with the highest interest and power. The WMRA and MoLD are responsible for implementation and NSWMP provides technical support in the form needed for capacity building.

The Ministry of Environment, Governorate General offices, the Ministry of Ministry Of Housing, Utilities & Urban Development, and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency are stakeholders with less interest and less power in the waste management scene, yet their efforts are needed to bring credibility and support to the processes. They are considered as secondary stakeholders as they monitor and support more than implement. This is followed by NGOs and the civil society whose contribution and interest are very high because the concerned NGOs benefit from the solid waste as a source of business and revenue, while the civil society is considered the main producer and the main solution to the challenge after receiving the needed awareness and respectful level of engagement of the solid waste management collection and segregation process. It is essential to have the buy-in of the civil society to ensure the processes' success.

Finally comes the Ministry of Finance and the private sector. The Ministry of Finance is affiliated to the system as a budgeting and financial resources stakeholder. However, it has no role in the decision making. Additionally, it is unfortunate to see that the interest of the private sector is still low, although it is not directly related to the solid waste management process, but it can greatly contribute to the process as part of its CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility plans. Investments of the private sector in this regard can boost the process and enable its success.



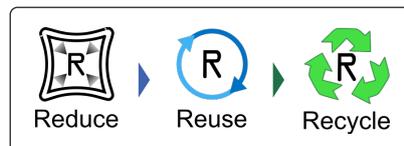
(Figure: Mapping Key Stakeholders)

## Policy Recommendation

This paper calls for the necessity of establishing an integrated waste management system that successfully generates sustainable sources of funding for waste collection and recycling, clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of the involved stakeholders in the system, and effectively spreads awareness among citizens on the best waste management practices.

To do so, the paper recommends developing an integrated system that decentralizes the process to allow local authorities in the Egyptian villages to take the lead in supervising the waste collection process. Therefore, local authorities would be in charge of imposing fees on citizens to cover the transportation and collection costs. Meanwhile, instead of leaving the waste collection process for the informal sector, local authorities could financially support the NGOs to make them gather the informal workers and organize the process of collecting the waste from the village and transferring it to the landfills and recycling centers. At the recycling stage, SMEs could be encouraged to play a significant role in implementing the recycling process. Accordingly, some SMEs could be given the rights to recycle the material gathered in a specific recycling center in return for fees that could be used in covering the collection and transportation costs.

Meanwhile, this should go hand in hand with increasing the citizens' awareness of the best practices for waste management. As a result, it is recommended to establish a national-wide campaign in the Egyptian rural areas that aims to raise the individual's awareness on economic, social and health aspects of the issue as well as how to reduce generating waste, increase waste reuse, and facilitate the segregation of waste.



«All the academic references used in this brief are mentioned in the policy paper.»

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