

The Integration of Informal Waste Sector into the Municipal Solid Waste Management in Cambodia

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Importance of the Informal Waste Sector in Cambodia

- ❖ The informal waste sector plays an important role in waste recovery and recycling activities
 - ✓ Informal waste pickers contribute to reducing waste disposal at landfill sites
 - ✓ The sector provides income-generating opportunities for vulnerable groups, particularly women (បង្កើនប្រាក់ចំណូល)
 - ✓ However, informal workers continue to face challenges related to safety, income security, and recognition

Mandate of the Ministry of Interior

- ❖ The Ministry of Interior oversees Sub-National Administrations across the country
 - ✓ Sub-National Administrations are responsible for local public service delivery, including solid waste management
 - ✓ They are mandated to supervise and monitor waste service operations at the local level
 - ✓ Integrating the informal sector contributes to improved service delivery and social inclusion



Role of Sub-National Administrations

- ❖ Local authorities play a key role in supporting and coordinating informal waste sector activities
 - ✓ They can facilitate dialogue among informal workers, private operators, and communities
 - ✓ Local governments help reduce operational overlaps and potential conflicts
 - ✓ Strong local leadership promotes cooperation and trust among stakeholders



Registration and Official Recognition

- ❖ Registration of informal waste pickers supports official recognition at the local level
 - ✓ It enables municipalities to better understand the scale and characteristics of the informal sector
 - ✓ Registration facilitates access to training, capacity building, and social support mechanisms
 - ✓ Effective implementation requires collaboration between local authorities, NGOs, and partners

Integration with Formal Waste Management Systems

- ❖ Integration aims to complement, not replace existing informal waste activities
 - ✓ Clear definition of roles improves coordination with formal waste service providers
 - ✓ Improved cooperation enhances efficiency at collection, transfer, and recycling points
 - ✓ Local authorities play a central role in coordination and monitoring

Capacity Development and Sustainability

- ❖ Capacity development is essential for sustainable integration of the informal sector
 - ✓ Support may include training on occupational health and safety and basic organizational skills
 - ✓ Strengthening capacity improves working conditions and service quality
 - ✓ Capacity development contributes to the long-term sustainability of municipal waste systems



Key Messages and Way Forward

- ❖ The informal waste sector is an essential partner in municipal solid waste management
 - ✓ Sub-National Administrations play a central role in recognition and integration efforts
 - ✓ Continued collaboration with NGOs and development partners is important
 - ✓ The Ministry of Interior remains committed to promoting inclusive and effective waste management systems

Key Messages and Way Forward



THANKS!

