Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) and Importance of Waste Auditing

Establishing Baseline of SDG indicator 11.6.1

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15 June 2026

UN HABITAT
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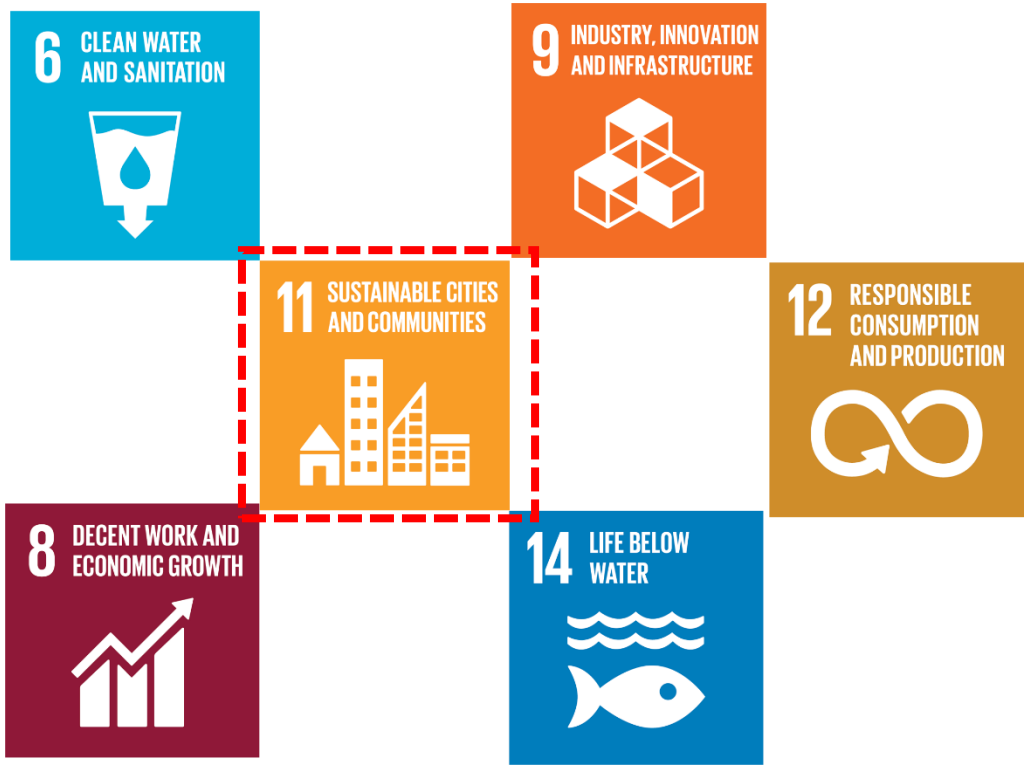
UN-Habitat Solid Waste Programmes

AFRICAN CLEAN CITIES PLATFORM
PLATE-FORME AFRICAINE DES VILLES PROPRES

WASTE WISE CITIES

for



Waste-related SDGs

What WaCT measures

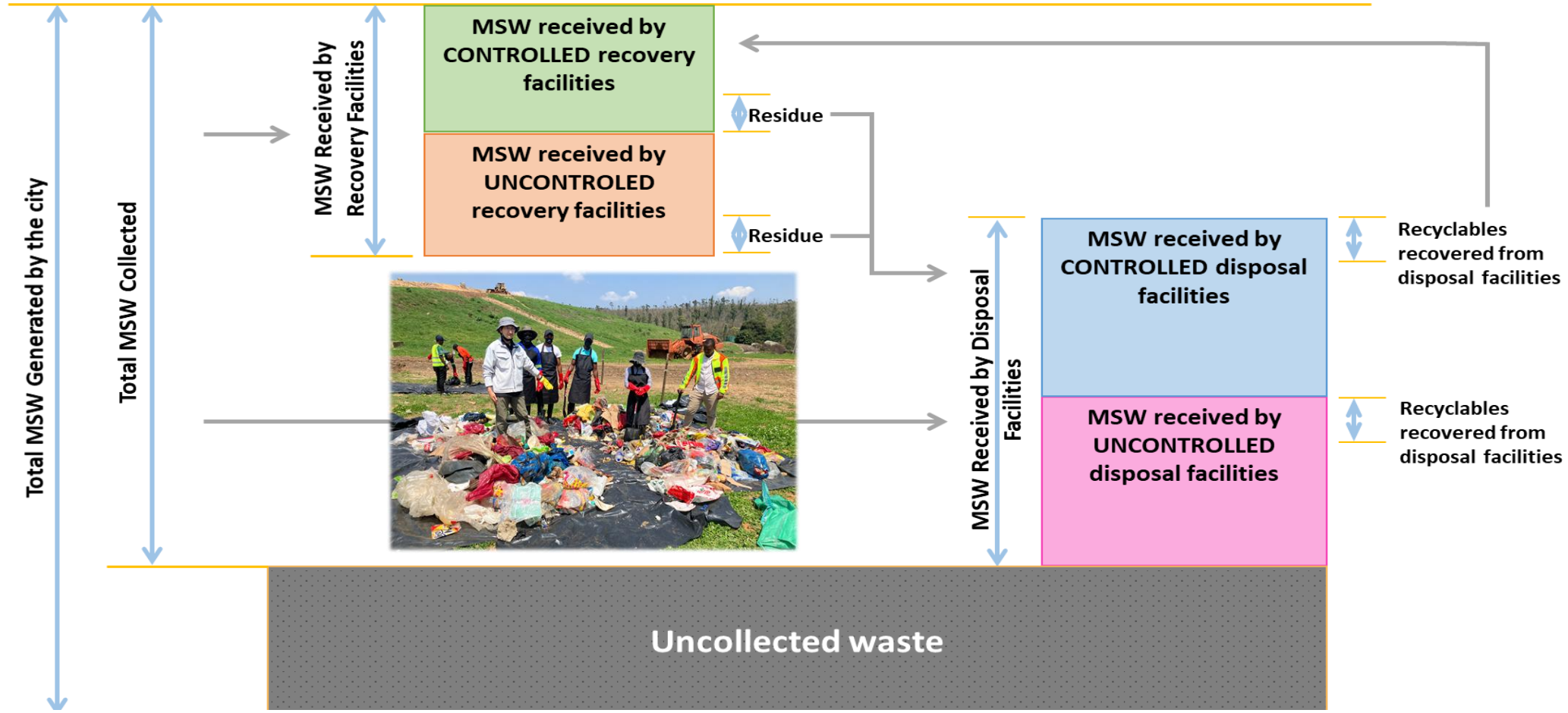
A rapid waste diagnosis to achieve 2030 agenda in waste management (2018, UN-Habitat)

- Developed by UN-Habitat, based on SDG indicator 11.6.1:
- WaCT supports cities and countries to report on their progress towards achieving the waste-related SDGs (11.6.1, 12.3.1, 12.5.1)

https://unhabitat.org/wwc-tool

What WaCT measures

WaCT measures % of MSW collected & managed in controlled facilities out of total MSW generated by the city



How does WaCT help cities?

- **Measure What Matters**
  Quantifies how much waste is **generated, collected**, and **safely managed**.
- **Engage the Value Chain**
  Map actors in the recovery chain (including the **informal sector**) to promote inclusive, and participatory solutions.
- **Assess Facility Standards**
  Evaluates the **environmental control level** of disposal and treatment sites.
- **Plan Strategically**
  Informs data-driven **waste management strategies** that support **jobs, businesses**, and service improvements.
- **Attract Investment and Mobilize Resources**
  Generates reliable data to support **infrastructure planning** and **bankable proposals**.

Survey Photos, WaCT in Mbabane, Eswatini (2025)






Mbabane Key Waste Indicators

City **Mbabane**
Country **Eswatini**

Population
61,940 (2015)

Year of WaCT survey
2025

Key Waste Data

Total municipal solid waste (MSW) generated by the city
42 t/d

Total MSW collected
96%
40 t/d

Total MSW collected and managed in controlled facilities
88%
37 t/d

Per capita MSW generation
0.67 kg/cap/d

Per capita household food waste generation
0.22 kg/cap/d

City recovery rate
17%

WaCT Flash Sheet

WaCT Flow

0.22 kg/p/day
Food waste

17%
City recovery rate

Household generation
29 t/d

Non-household generation
12 t/d

Total MSW generated
42 t/d

9 t/d

Recovery facilities

Recovered recyclables
0 t/d

Residues/rejects
2 t/d

recovered
7 t/d

4 t/d
controlled

31 t/d

Disposal facilities

disposed
33 t/d

33 t/d
controlled

Not reaching facilities

uncollected
2 t/d

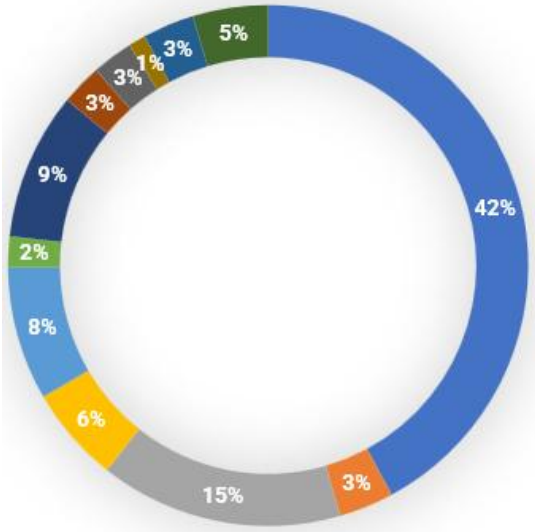
96%
collected

11.6.1

88%
managed in controlled facilities

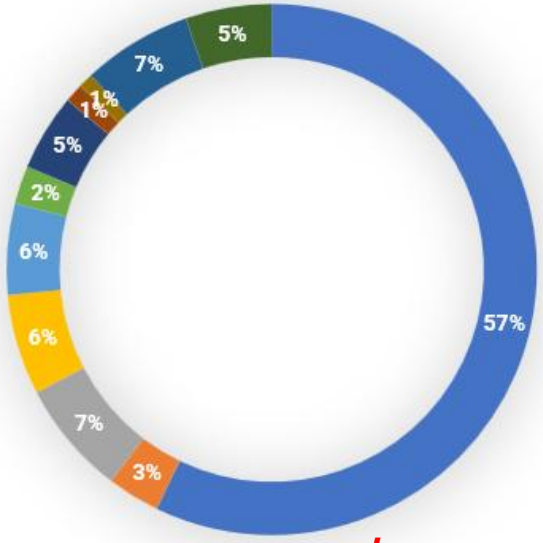
Household MSW Generation

Household waste composition higher income areas



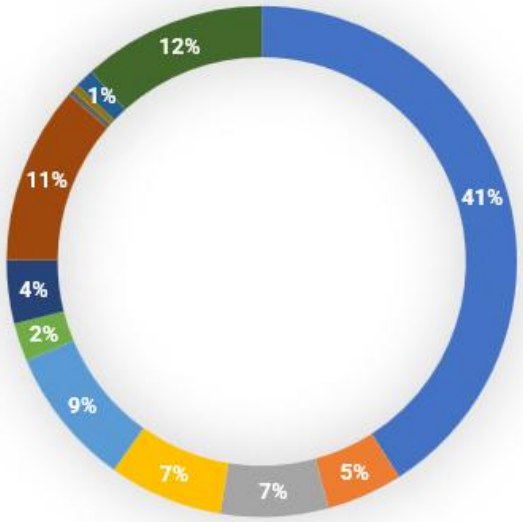
Per cap. 0.38 kg/d

Household waste composition middle income areas



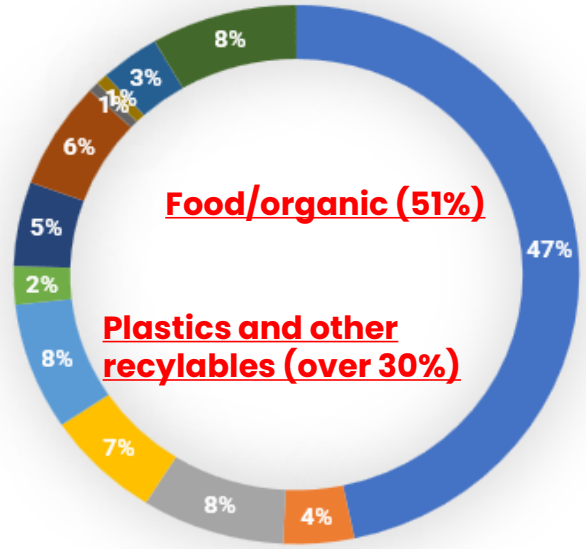
Per cap. 0.61 kg/d

Household waste composition lower income areas



Per cap. 0.41 kg/d

Average household waste composition



Food/organic (51%)

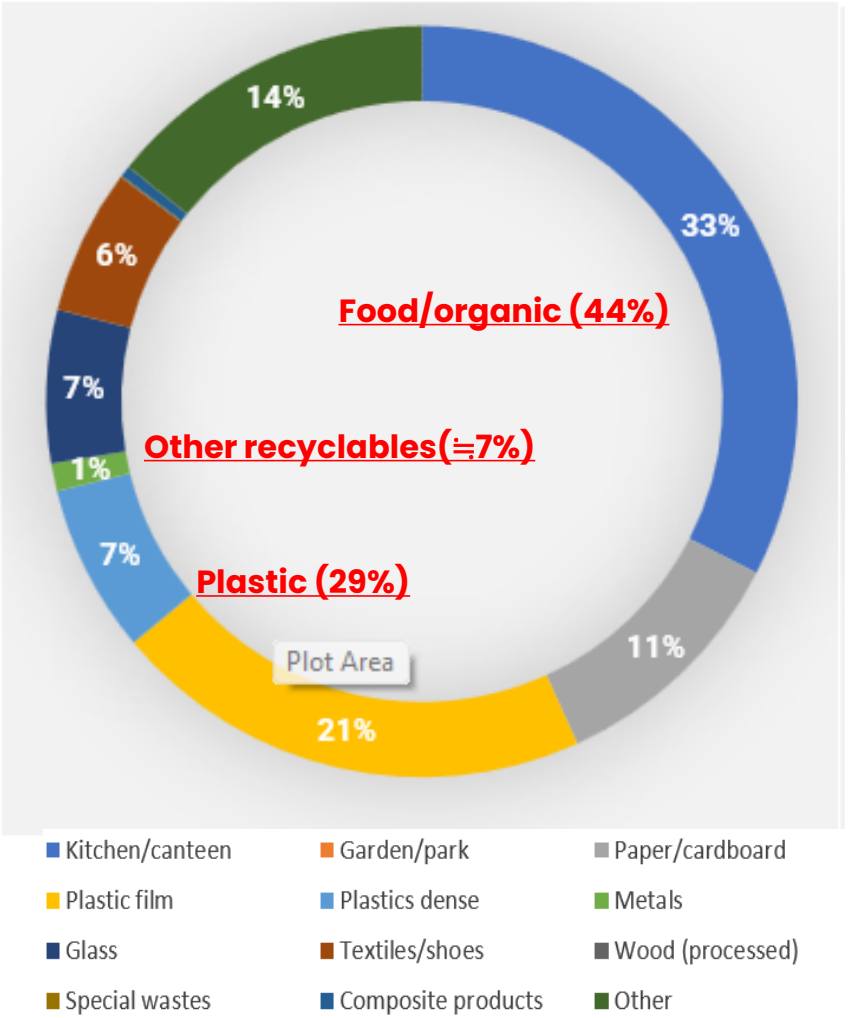
Plastics and other recylables (over 30%)

Per cap. 0.67 kg/d

- Kitchen/canteen
- Garden/park
- Paper/cardboard
- Plastic film
- Plastics dense
- Metals
- Glass
- Textiles/shoes
- Wood (processed)
- Special wastes
- Composite products
- Other

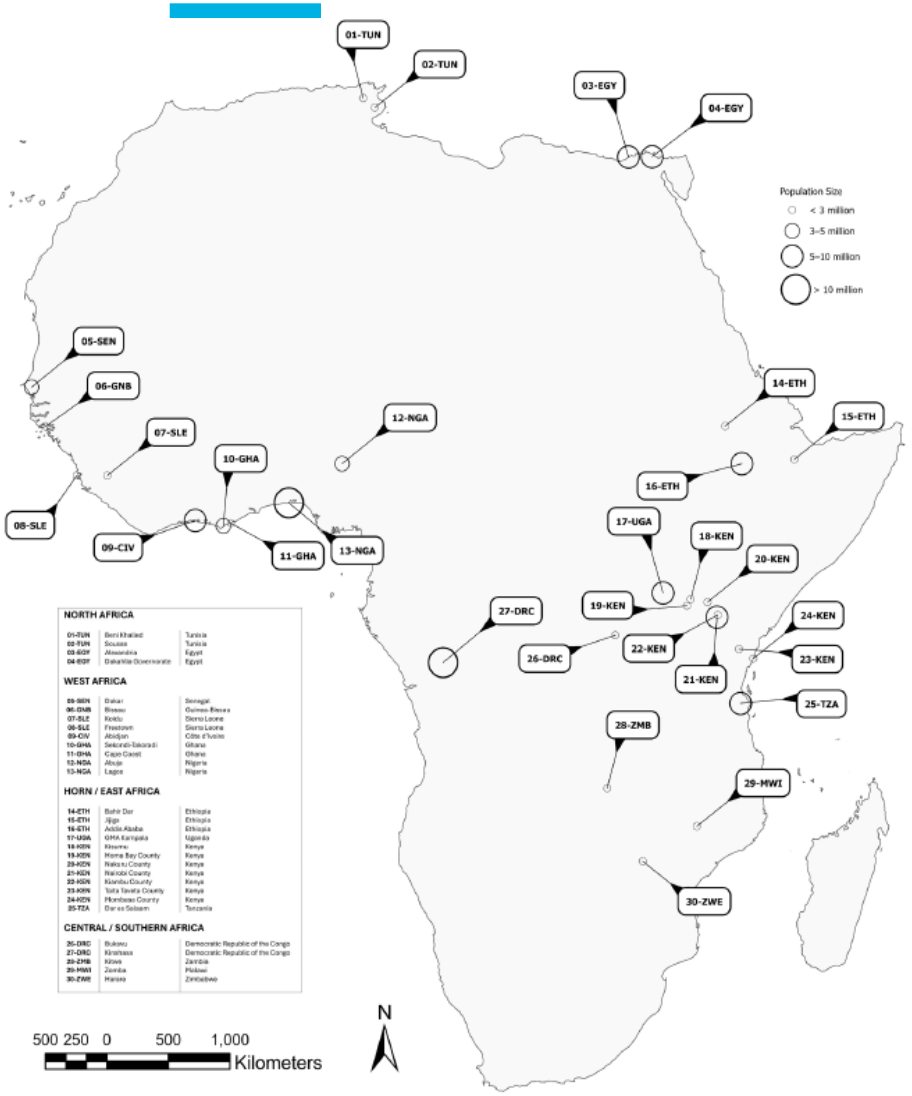
Wate Composition at Landfill

Landfill waste composition



What WaCTData Reveals in Africa

WaCT applied in 30 cities in 16 countries region wide

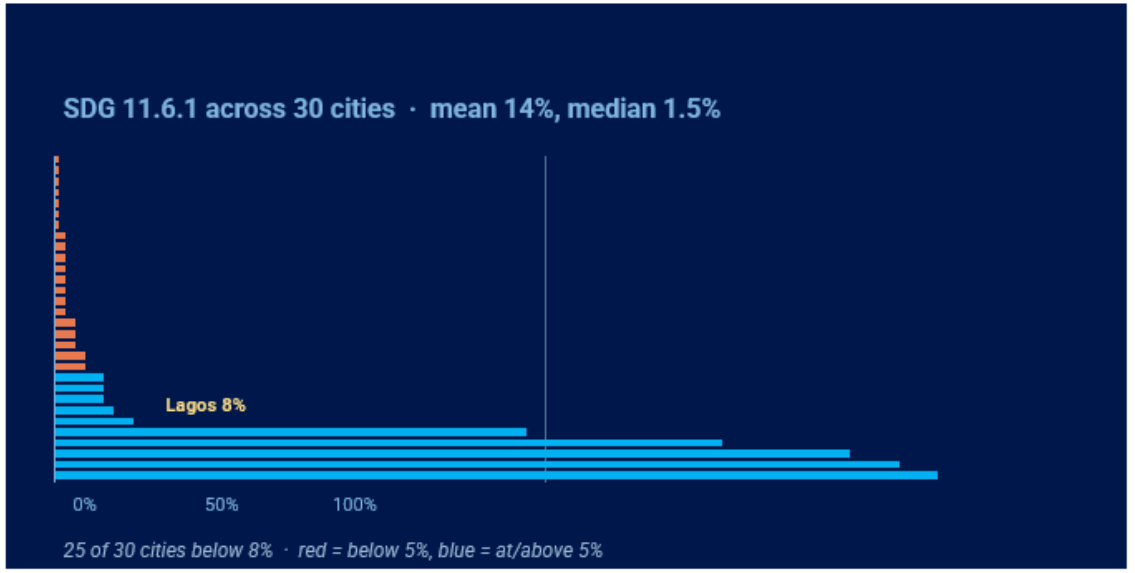


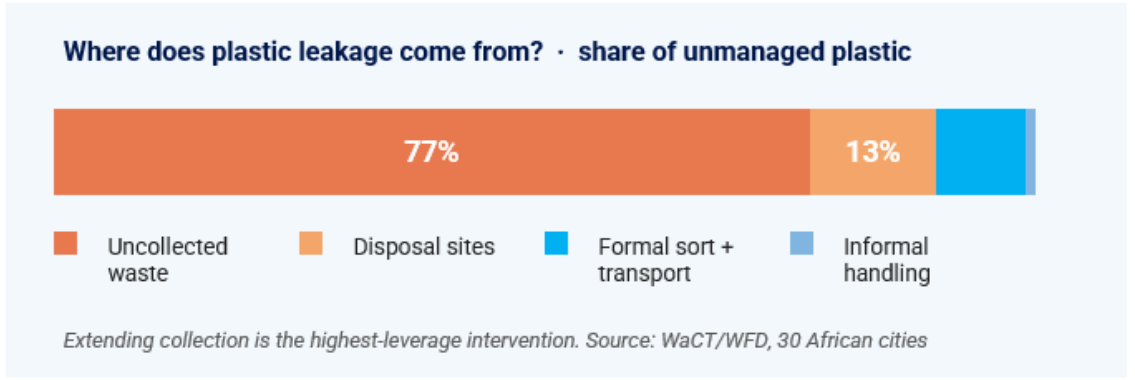
Source: From Data to Action, UN-Habitat 2025 (unpublished)

What WaCT reveals: 30 African cities, primary

KEY FINDINGS · primary data across 30 African cities

Generation	**0.75 kg/cap/day average** Range 0.38–1.28. Organics 57% (35–89%); plastics 11% (4–32%)
Collection	**49% mean, 50% median** Range 2–95%. Informal settlements & peri-urban areas least served
Controlled disposal	**5 of 30 cities reach basic+** Only 20% of waste reaches controlled disposal. SDG 11.6.1: mean 14% / median 1.5%
Plastic leakage	**42% of plastic generated** 77% from uncollected waste, 13% from disposal sites. Open burning in most cities





Source: From Data to Action, UN-Habitat 2025 (unpublished)

Any questions?

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Sign the **Letter of Intent** and send it to:
wastewisecities@un.org

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