Indonesia, the fourth most populous country in the world with over 250 million people, is facing significant challenges in waste management, particularly as it rapidly urbanizes. Between 2000 and 2010, the country experienced an annual urban population growth of about 3%, leading to development gaps in the provision of basic services and infrastructure, notably in solid waste management (SWM). In 2019, Indonesia’s waste generation reached 67.1 million tonnes, with an annual increase of 1.3% from 2010 to 2019. This figure is projected to continue rising, reaching an estimated 71.3 million tonnes by 2025. Notably, plastic pollution contributes significantly to this problem, with approximately one-third of plastic waste ending up in water systems.

Recognizing the importance of SWM to Indonesia’s rapidly developing economy, the government has been ramping up its efforts in this sector, including increased infrastructure spending. Early initiatives include the Solid Waste Management Act (NO.18/2008), which aimed to improve SWM by closing all open dumping sites by 2013 and requiring large cities to use sanitary disposal facilities exclusively. Unfortunately, this ambitious target was not met, with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry recording 167 open dump waste disposal facilities still operating in 2018. Furthermore, estimates indicate that only 60% of urban residents have access to waste collection services, and merely 55% of urban solid waste is managed at a transfer station or processing facility.

In an effort to promote sustainable SWM and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) practices, the Ministry of Environment introduced Regulation No. 13 of 2012, which established the Waste Bank as a key government tool to enhance household and similar waste recycling. The Waste Bank incentivizes residents by offering a pre-set amount for selected valuable waste types through local reception stations. 2021 statistics reveal 11,556 waste banks across Indonesia that have 419,204 customers and a monthly turnover of 1.8 billion USD.
IMPUTS TO ACHIEVE SDG 11.6.1

- Initial national results in 2012 showed that waste banks managed on average between 1.6 and 2.2 tonnes of waste per waste bank. Their total customer base was 84,623 citizens with a monthly turnover of around 212 billion USD.
- Contribution to National Waste Reduction: 0.01% (2015) to 2.37% (2018)

INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

The institutional sustainability of waste banks in Indonesia is crucial for their long-term success, as they are key to managing and coordinating waste recovery operations, making a continuous impact on waste management practices. Supportive government policies and regulations are pivotal, providing a necessary framework for waste banks to operate legitimately. Active participation from local communities ensures a steady supply of recyclable materials and fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility toward waste management. Community engagement also aids in promoting awareness and behavioral change, contributing to the social sustainability of waste banks. Overall, a combination of government support, community involvement, and effective management is vital for the institutional sustainability of waste banks in Indonesia, ensuring their continued success in waste management practices.

PLANNING & MONITORING

Planning and monitoring waste banks activities and results are crucial for the successful implementation of waste management interventions at a national scale. By systematically tracking the performance of waste banks, authorities can gain valuable insights into the efficiency and effectiveness of waste management practices. This information can then be used to refine existing policies and strategies or to develop new ones that align with the evolving needs and challenges of waste management in Indonesia. Additionally, monitoring allows for the identification of trends and patterns in waste recovery, which can inform targeted interventions and resource allocation.
Waste banks are typically operated by community members with technical support from both central and local governments. In some instances, they may also be established by local governments or the private sector as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Fundamentally, these facilities serve as collection centers where residents can drop off their waste. The waste is then sorted and sold to waste collectors for additional processing, with the depositors receiving nominal cash incentives in exchange for their contributions.

The Ministry of Environment Regulation No. 13 of 2012 explains about:

- The definition of a garbage bank
- Requirements, mechanism, implementation, and implementation of Waste Bank
- The relationship between the waste bank and the implementation of the 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) and the application of Extended Producer Responsibility

Stakeholder involvement is crucial for the success of waste management initiatives. The government plays a pivotal role by implementing waste bank policy regulations that encourage the establishment and operation of Waste Banks. Local communities actively participate by bringing their waste to these banks, ensuring a steady supply of recyclable materials. The informal sector, including waste pickers and collectors, also plays an integral part by collecting and selling recyclable waste to the waste banks, contributing to the circular economy. Additionally, the private sector, exemplified by initiatives like the Unilever Indonesia Foundation and the CSR Program of PLN Unit Induk Distribusi Jakarta Raya (UID), has been instrumental in supporting waste banks with essential services such as socialization, training, and development, leading to their sustainable growth. By engaging various stakeholders, waste management efforts can be more effective, promoting environmental sustainability and supporting local communities.
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