

# Global Trends, Impacts, Priorities and Opportunities in Solid Waste Management towards Circularity

World Bank Engagement in Solid Waste Management  
Active Portfolio in Africa

Kremena Ionkova  
Global Lead for Solid Waste Management and Circularity

ACCP, Yokohama, August 2025





# Global Trends – Rapidly Increasing Volumes

- Waste volumes continue to increase: 50% more waste expected by 2050 compared to 2022
- Extraordinarily large quantities of waste remain unmanaged – 30% of global waste is uncollected or openly dumped
- Under a business-as-usual scenario, the situation is likely to worsen significantly over time
- Improvements will require substantially greater efforts, investments, and capacity
- Large and growing volumes of waste pose a mounting challenge for local governments and strain the economy, public finances, health, and the environment

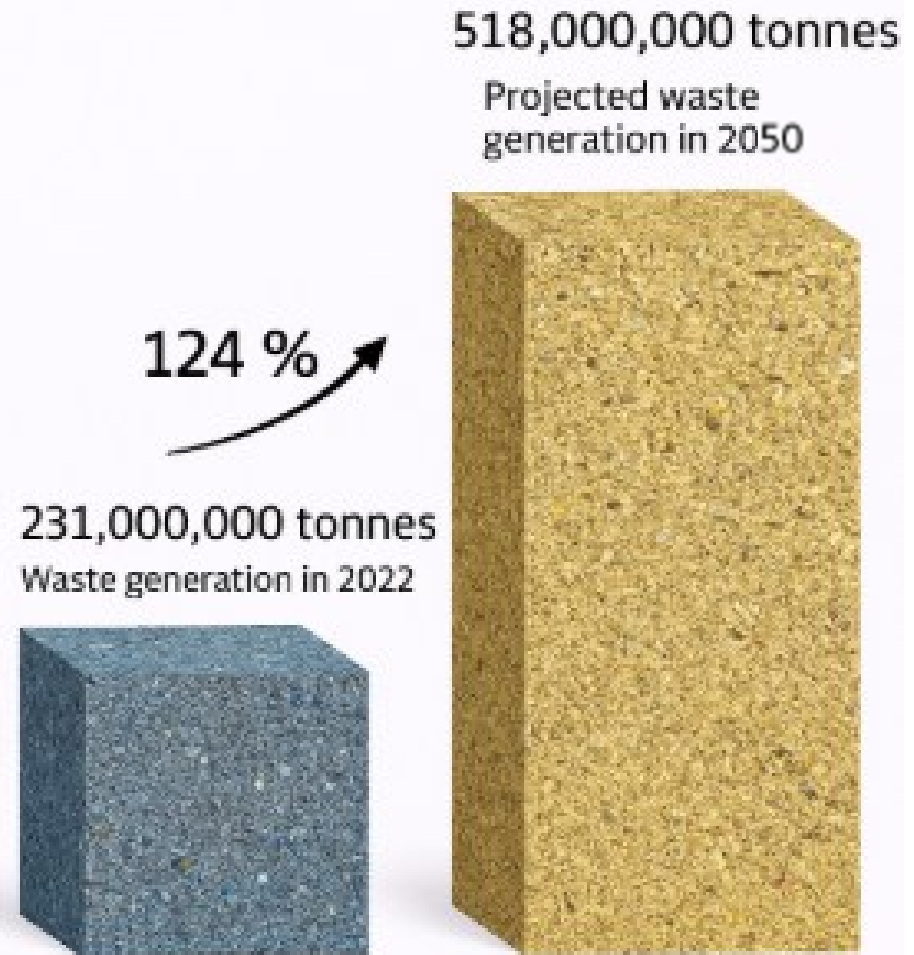


# Projected Municipal Solid Waste Generation in Sub-Sahara Africa

Business-as-Usual

Waste generation driven by population growth, urbanization, and economic growth

## Sub-Saharan Africa



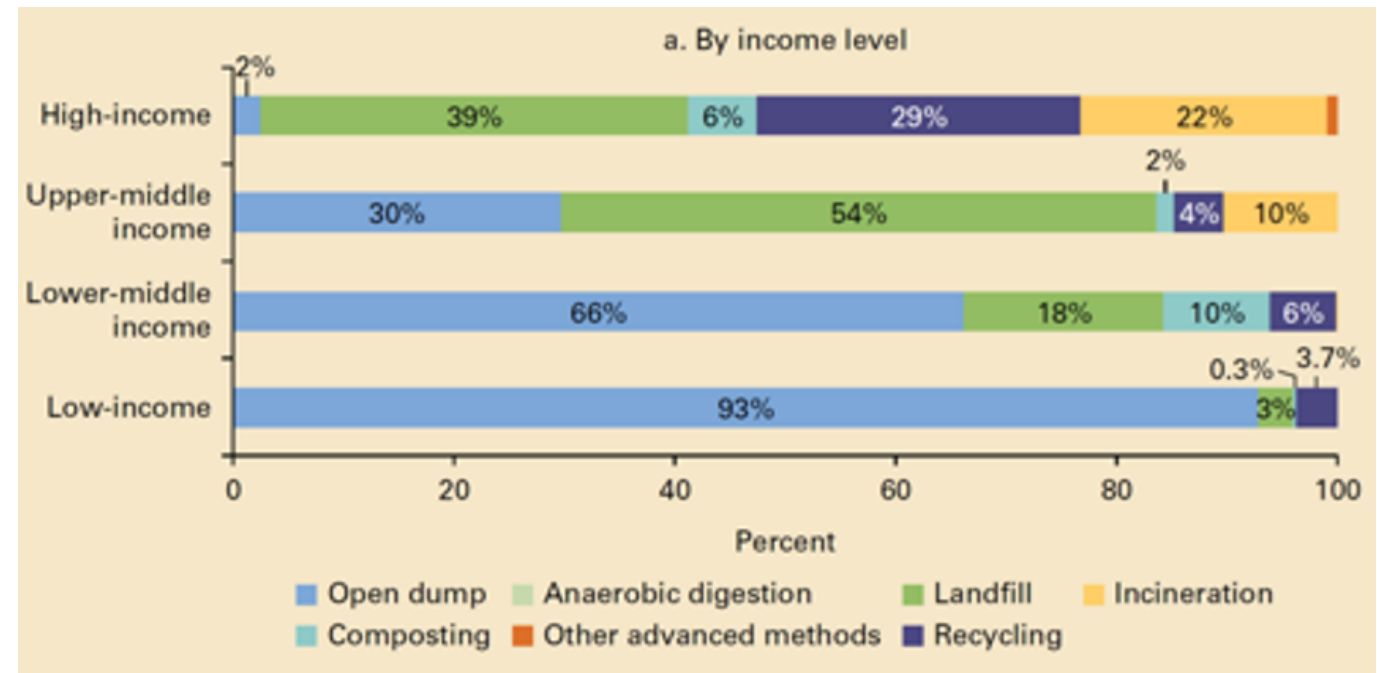


# Impacts of Poor Solid Waste Management

- Significant adverse impacts on public health, the environment, livability, local economic development, and the business climate
- Heavy strain on city budgets (4% of expenditures in high-income countries, 6% in middle-income, 9% in low-income)
- 80% of plastics in the global ocean originate from unmanaged or poorly managed municipal solid waste
- Solid waste contributes to GHG emissions (responsible for 20% of man-made methane, as well as black carbon and air pollution)
- Effective waste management is a foundational step - and a prerequisite - for circularity



# Priorities in Solid Waste Management towards Circularity







# Development Opportunities from Improved Solid Waste Management

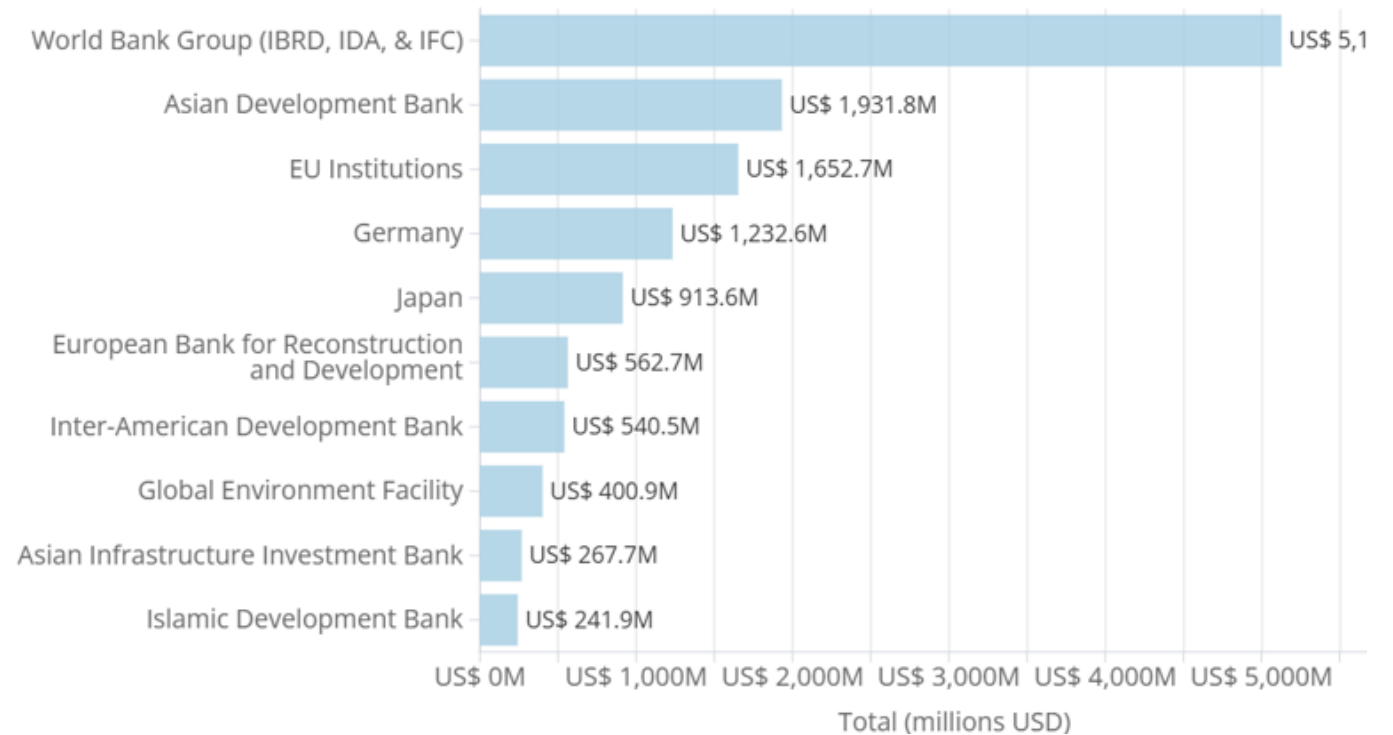
- **Rising Policy Priority:** The sector is gaining visibility as a key enabler of sustainable development
- **Catalyst for Investment:** Improved systems can reduce long-term costs and attract private sector financing
- **Local Economic Growth:** Expanded services, infrastructure development, and stronger local value chains
- **Climate and Environmental Impact:** Reduced emissions, pollution, and urban flooding
- **Job Creation and Circular Economy:** New employment across recycling, recovery, and innovation in materials management



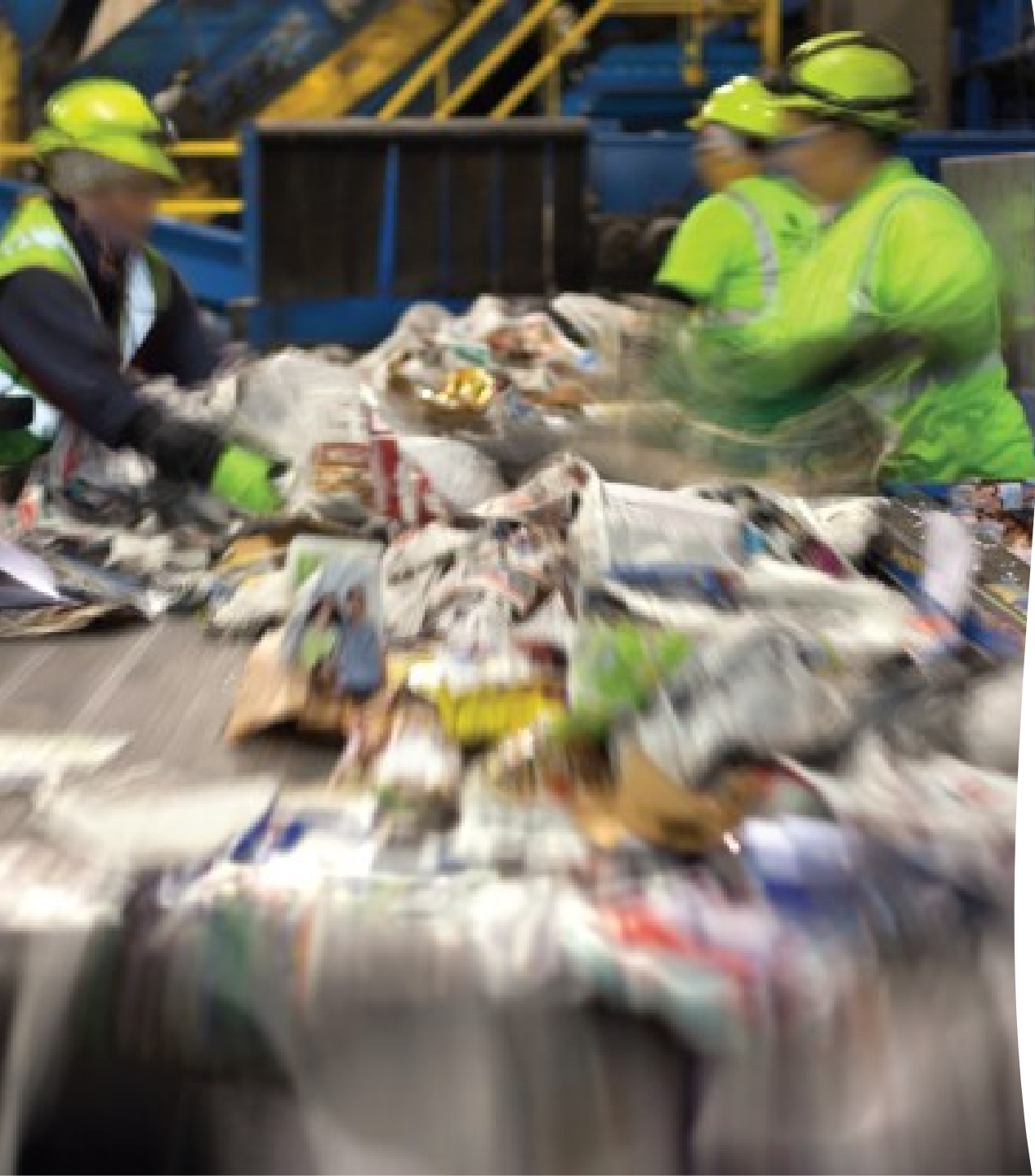
# The World Bank in Solid Waste Management

## Solid Waste Management Official Development Finance

Top ten sources, 2003–2021



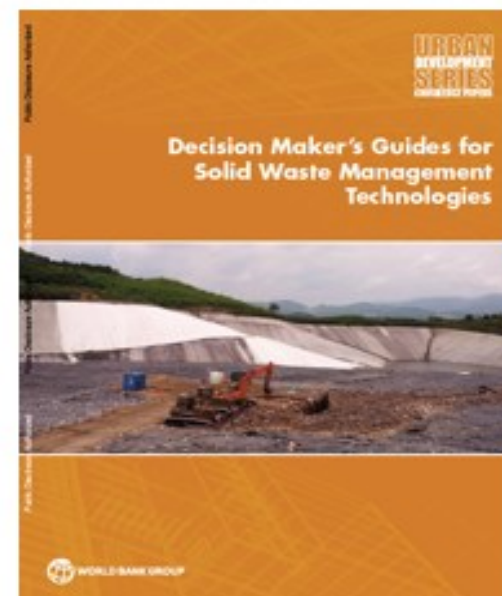
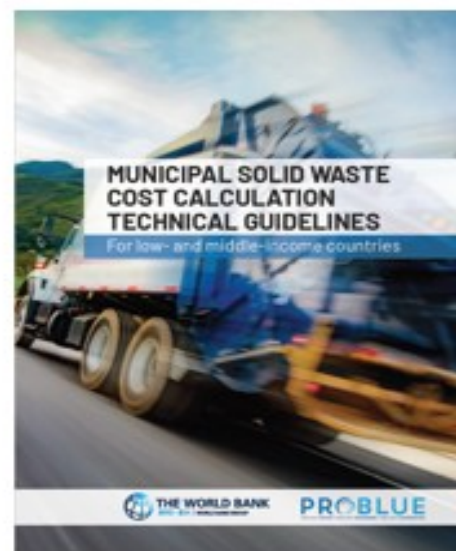
Source: [David J. Lerpiniere, David C. Wilson, Costas A. Velis, Official development finance in solid waste management reveals insufficient resources for tackling plastic pollution: A global analysis of two decades of data](#) • Resources, Conservation and Recycling, Volume 212, 2025, 107918, ISSN 0921-3449



# World Bank Active Investment Portfolio in Solid Waste in Africa

1. Chad
2. Cote d'Ivoire
3. Democratic Republic of Congo
4. Egypt
5. Ghana
6. Madagascar
7. Mali
8. Mauritania
9. Morocco
10. Mozambique
11. Senegal
12. Seychelles
13. Somalia
14. South Africa
15. Tanzania





Thank you!