REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

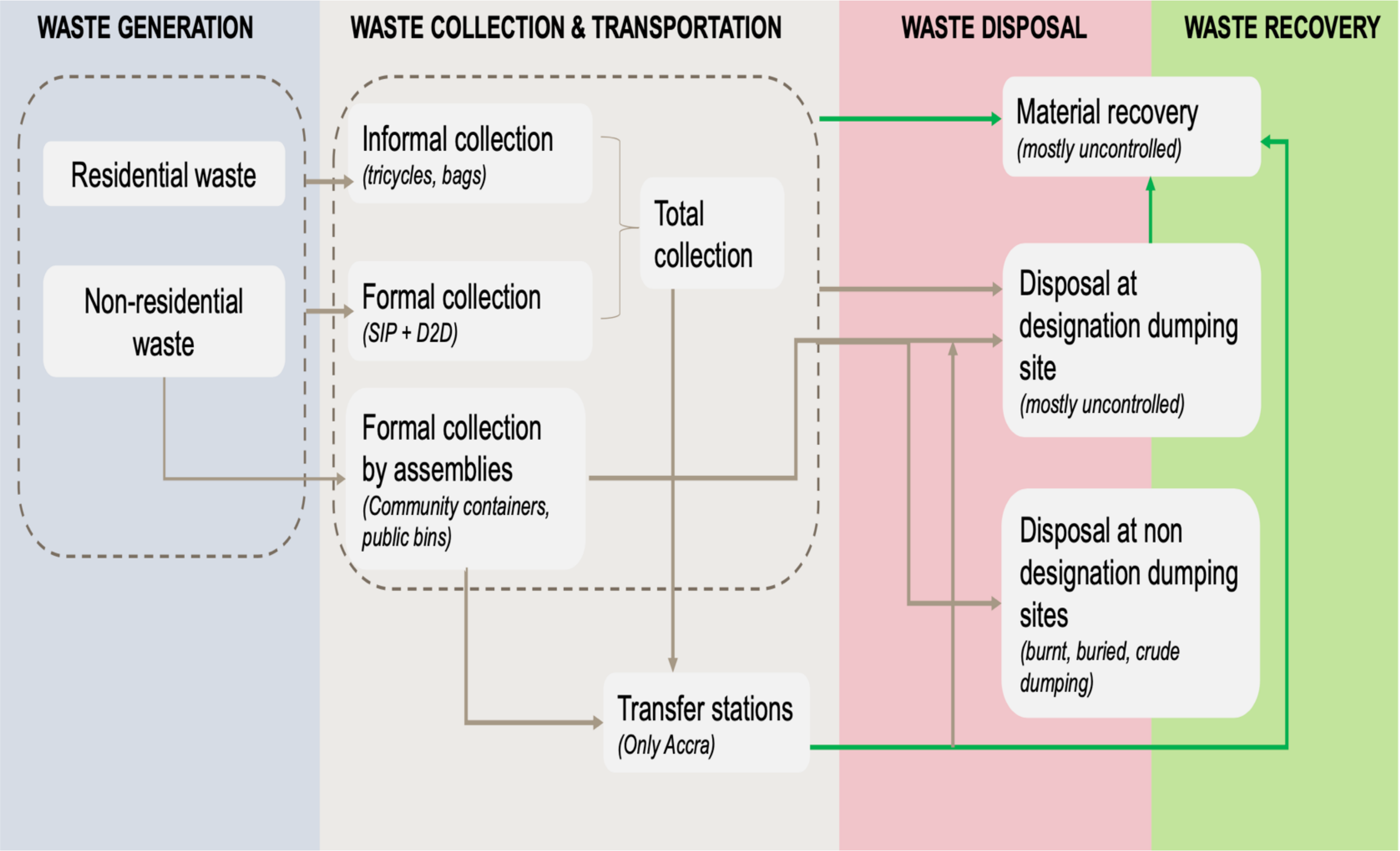
GHANA’S WASTE MANAGEMENT REALITIES & ASPIRATIONS

DATE: 26TH AUGUST 2025

CONTENT

COUNTRY CONTEXT

1. Population = 33 million
2. Admin Regions = 16
3. Admin Districts = 261
4. Land Area = 238,533 km^2
5. Annual growth rate of = 2.1%
6. GDP = USD 76.37 billion
7. GNI per capita = $2,380
8. Urban Population = 56.7%



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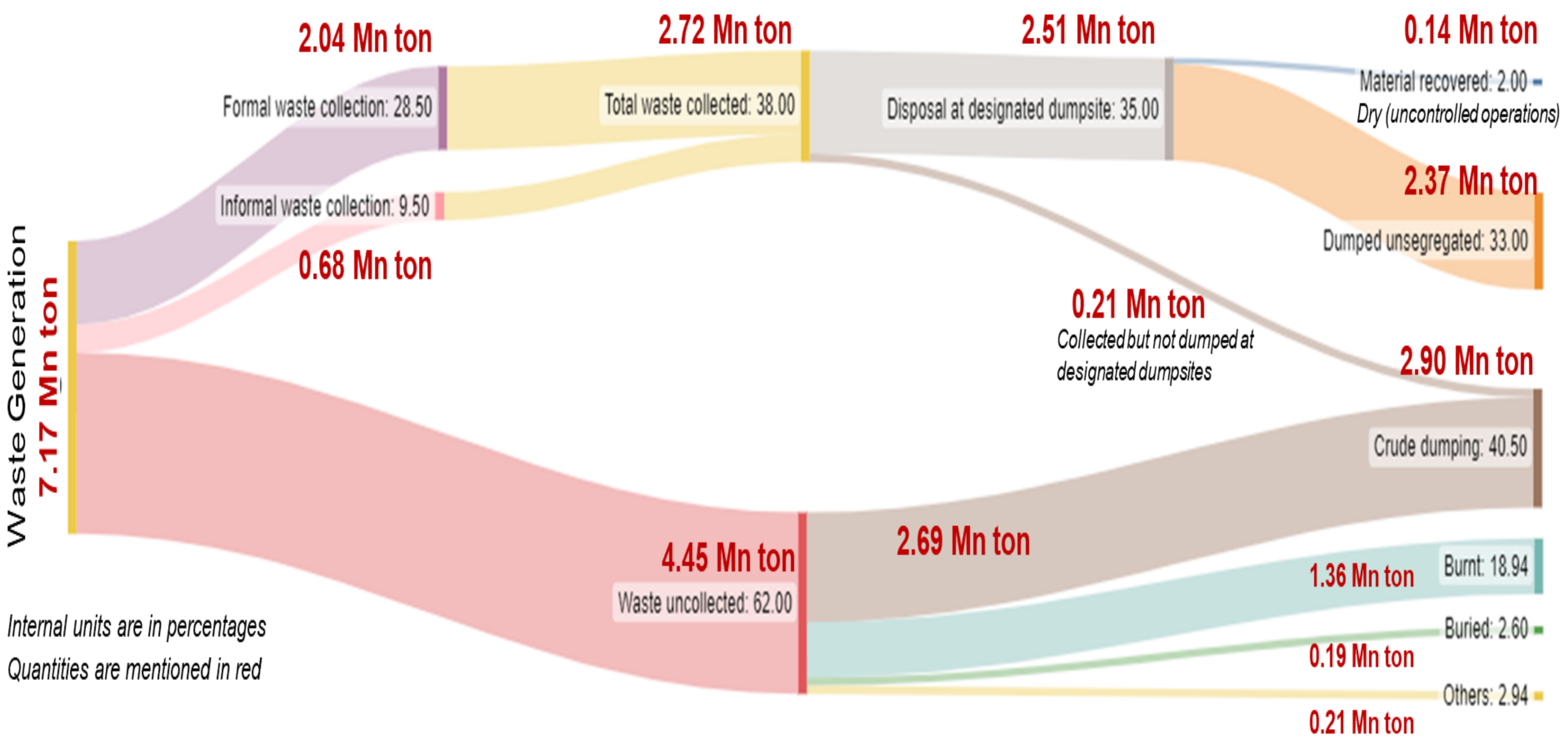

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN A SERVICE-LED ECONOMY

- **Shift to Privatization:** Since the 1990s, Ghana has increasingly outsourced waste services, with the public sector focusing more on regulation and contract management.

- **Fee-Based Service Model:** Waste management is positioned primarily as a consumer service financed through household and business fees, yet its wider potential as a resource stream and economic lever remains underdeveloped.

- **Coverage Gaps:** Service provision is uneven. Affluent areas often achieve near universal collection, while low-income communities see less than coverage.

- **Financial Strains:** Rising costs and low fee recovery undermine sustainability, leaving service providers with debt.

- **Waste as a Service-Economy Driver:** Waste management is a significant aspect of Ghana’s broader service-led growth, with potential to evolve into a dynamic sector contributing significantly to GDP and livelihoods.

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EVOLVING PATHWAYS FOR SOUND WASTE GOVERNANCE

- **Circular Economy Transition:** Waste increasingly reframed as a resource, with potential to recover up to 86% of value. Initiatives span plastics reduction/recycling, organics-to-compost, plastics-to-construction, etc.

- **Private Sector & PPP Models:** Growth of public–private partnerships is driving innovation, investment mobilization, infrastructure provision and service delivery.

- **Extended Producer Responsibility & Financing:** EPR frameworks and green financing are emerging to sustain waste recovery infrastructure and incentivize producer responsibility.

- **Inclusive Governance & Informal Sector Integration:** Recognition of informal waste collectors' contribution (51% of waste collected) and integration within traditional governance structures to promote collaboration, training, and service delivery.

- **Data & Digitalization:** Adoption of GIS, mobile platforms, and baseline studies to map waste flows and support evidence-based policymaking.

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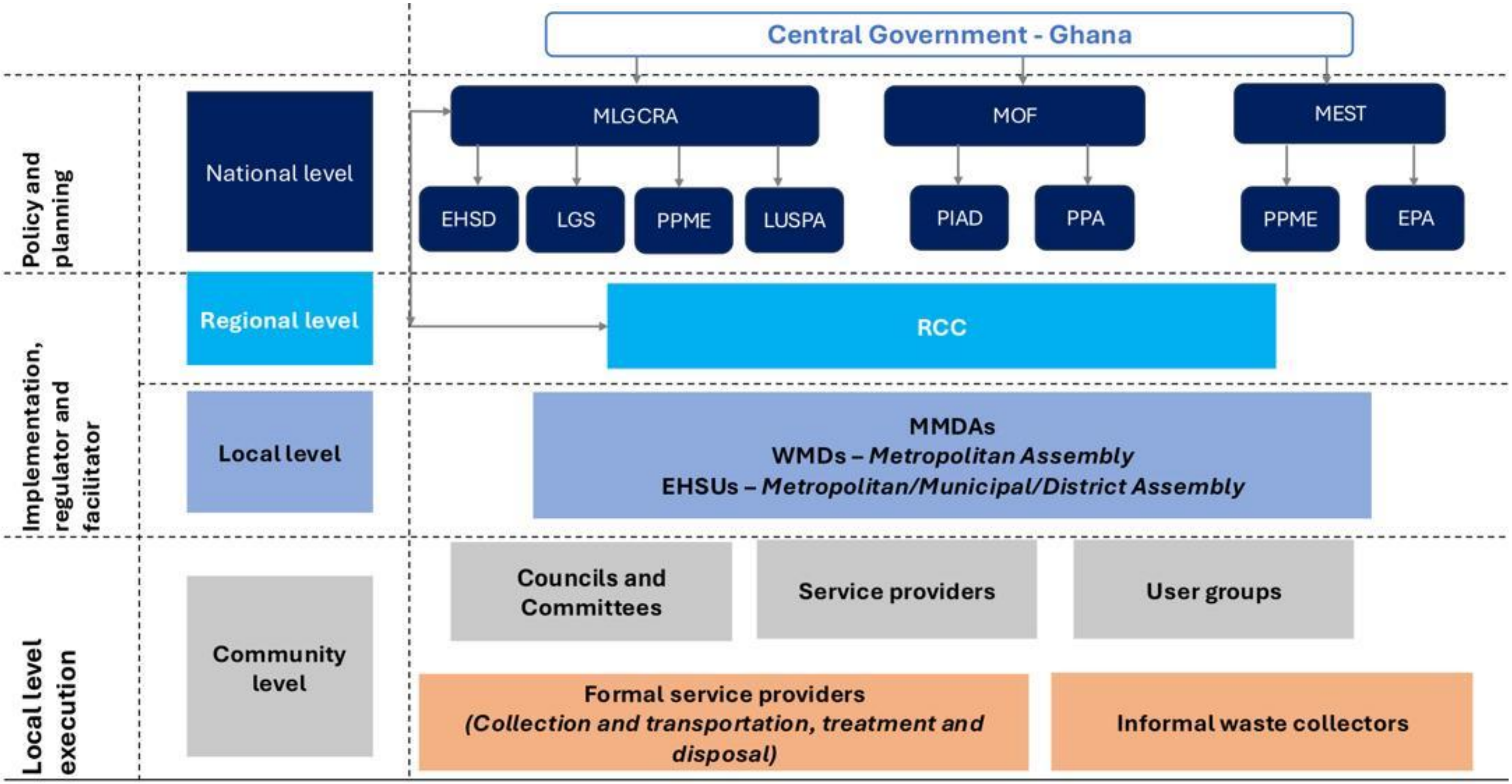
EVOLVING PATHWAYS FOR SOUND WASTE GOVERNANCE: IMPROVED ALIGNMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK



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TANGIBLE PROGRESS: CURRENT WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE IN GHANA

S/N	Facility Type	Count	Location(s)	Ownership / Operation	Status
1.	**Engineered Landfills**	4	Tamale, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Kpone	Government-owned	Kpone decommissioned (2023)
2.	**IRECOPs**	16	Regional Capitals	PPP (Management Contracts)	Operational/Under development
3.	**Wastewater Treatment Facilities**	3	Regional Capitals	PPP (same contract as IRECOPs)	Operational
4.	**Sewage Treatment Plants**	3	Accra, Ashaiman, Tema	Government-owned	Operational
5.	**FSTPs (Faecal Sludge)**	4	Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Tamale	PPP	Operational

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF WASTE

Create over 2,500 direct jobs

Several thousand indirect jobs across the value chain

Reduce 5.6 million tonnes CO_2e

4No. Regional facilities authorised under Art 6.2

BARRIERS

1. Rapid urbanisation and economic activity contributes to increased production of solid waste

2. Many of the poor SWM outcomes observed are, in part, a result of weak operational governance in the sector

3. SWM is complex and layered, with different responsibilities across several national- and sub-national-level institutions.

4. Local authority capacity varies widely between metropolitan, municipal, and district authorities.

5. Weak international market for recyclable commodities.

OPPORTUNITIES & NEXT STEPS

1. Scale up PPPs and local authority capacity.

2. Strengthen EPR and green finance frameworks.

3. Enhance data & digitalization for decision-making.

4. Promote regional cooperation (ECOWAS-level recycling & market access).

5. Position waste sector as a driver for climate action & job creation.

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Thank you

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