

Western Africa Workshop on Waste Management and the Circular Economy

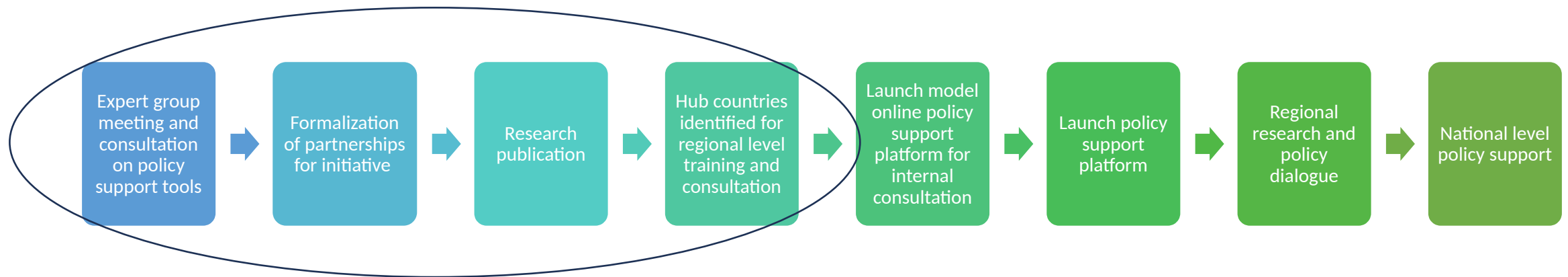
Bridging data gaps, enhancing technical capacity, and facilitating evidence-based policymaking to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals

***26 - 28 August 2025
Accra, Ghana***



Why We Are Here

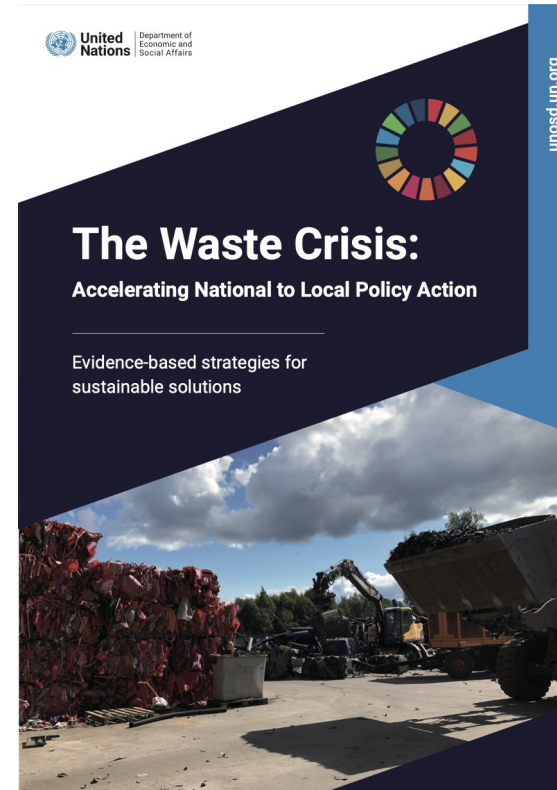
- **March 2023:** UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Zero Waste issues global call to action – Waste and pollution identified as urgent threats to ecosystems and human well-being
- In response, UNOSD developed a roadmap towards a **practical tool**.



- UNOSD, in partnership with the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (**GGKP**), the Global Green Growth Institute (**GGGI**), the UN Environment Programme (**UNEP**), and regional actors developed the Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System (**WMPSS**).

Launch of the Waste Crisis Report and the WMPSS Initiative

Officially launched at the **High-Level Political Forum** in New York, July 2024



<https://desapublications.un.org/>

The Growing Waste Crisis: Why Action Is Urgent

2.1
Billion Tons

Municipal solid waste (MSW) generated annually.

62
Per Cent

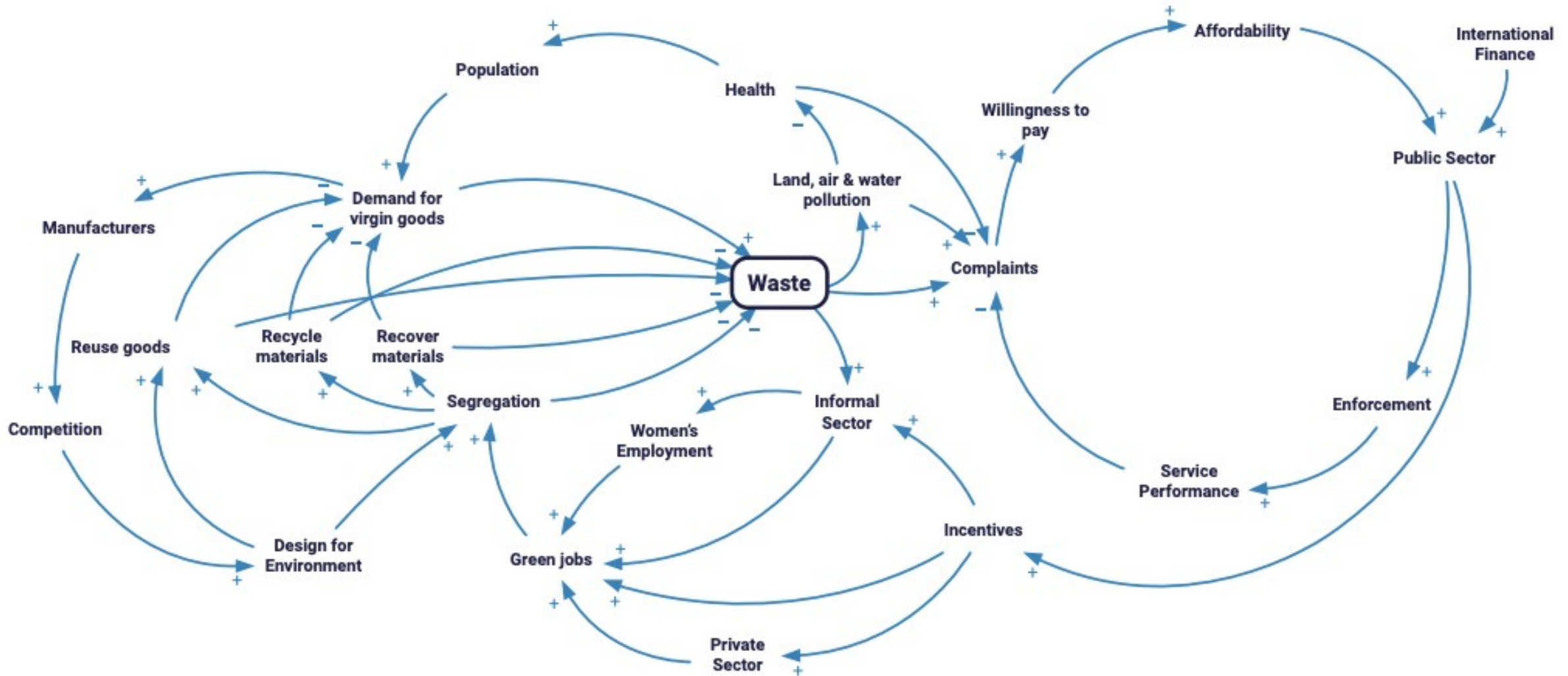
MSW that is managed in controlled facilities globally

90
Per Cent

Waste in low-income countries that is discarded in unregulated dumps or burned openly

- Plastic waste increased by **126%** between 2000 and 2019
- Only **9%** of plastic waste is recycled
- E-waste reached **62 million tons in 2022** – up **82%** since 2010
- Waste sector contributes **~20%** of human-caused methane emissions
- Greenhouse gas emissions have **more than doubled** in 50 years

Why Waste Systems Are Difficult to Manage



Waste Management and the SDGs

Effective and integrated waste management contributes to all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Circular economy programmes have achieved results in energy and water, but there is still much to be done in terms of municipal solid waste.



Key SDG indicators include:



11.6.1



12.3.1, 12.4.1,
12.4.2, 12.5.1



14.1

Reliable Data: The Foundation for Sound Waste Policy

Accurate waste management data:

- Helps set baselines and track progress
- Supports resource allocation and investment
- Enables evidence-based decision-making

**15
Years**

Average age of waste
management data from low-
income countries

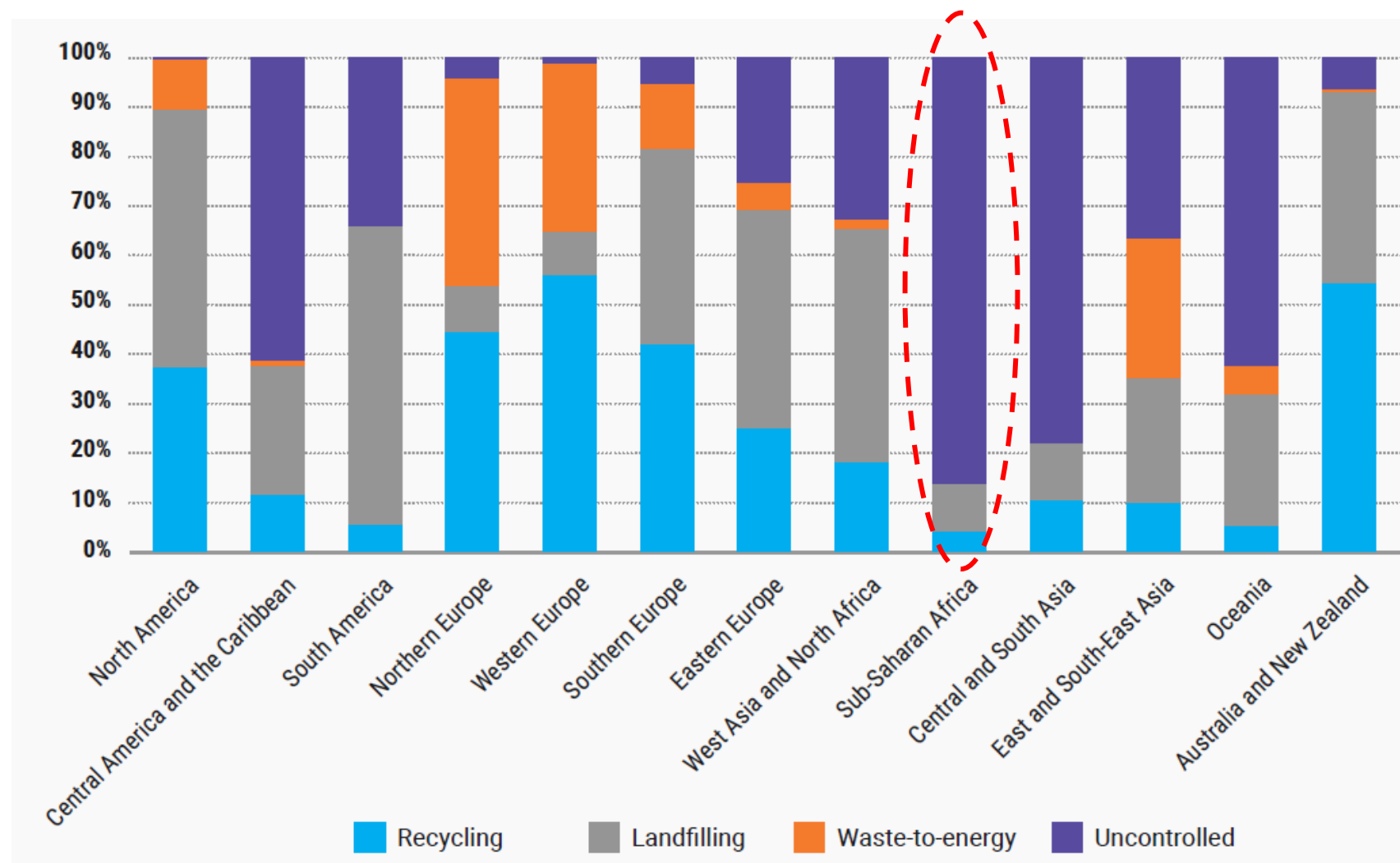
Examples of Primary Data Gaps in Developing Countries

Accuracy	Unknown whether data reported is estimated or measured. Unknown accuracy or repeatability of existing measurements.
Classifications	Common classifications of waste and waste types remain an issue.
Full Cost Accounting	Limited knowledge of the operational costs that the city sustains for MSW services. The cost of disposal is often only a small part of the cost of waste.
Indicators	Indicators for obtaining more granular data are either absent or not widely used.
Informal Sector	The informal sector represents a significant part of the waste sector and often does not feature in official data; hence its contribution is not adequately captured.
Monitoring and Reporting	Lack of sufficiently sophisticated systems to generate data.
Waste Destination	Rates at which waste is dumped (legally or illegally), incinerated, sent to a landfill, or diverted back into the circular economy (example: composting) is lacking.
Waste other than MSW	Waste streams such as commercial and industrial, e-waste, plastics, marine litter, and hazardous waste are often sparsely reported.

Regional Distribution of Municipal Solid Waste Destination

UNEP 2024, based on 2020 data

Highest proportions of uncontrolled disposal occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.

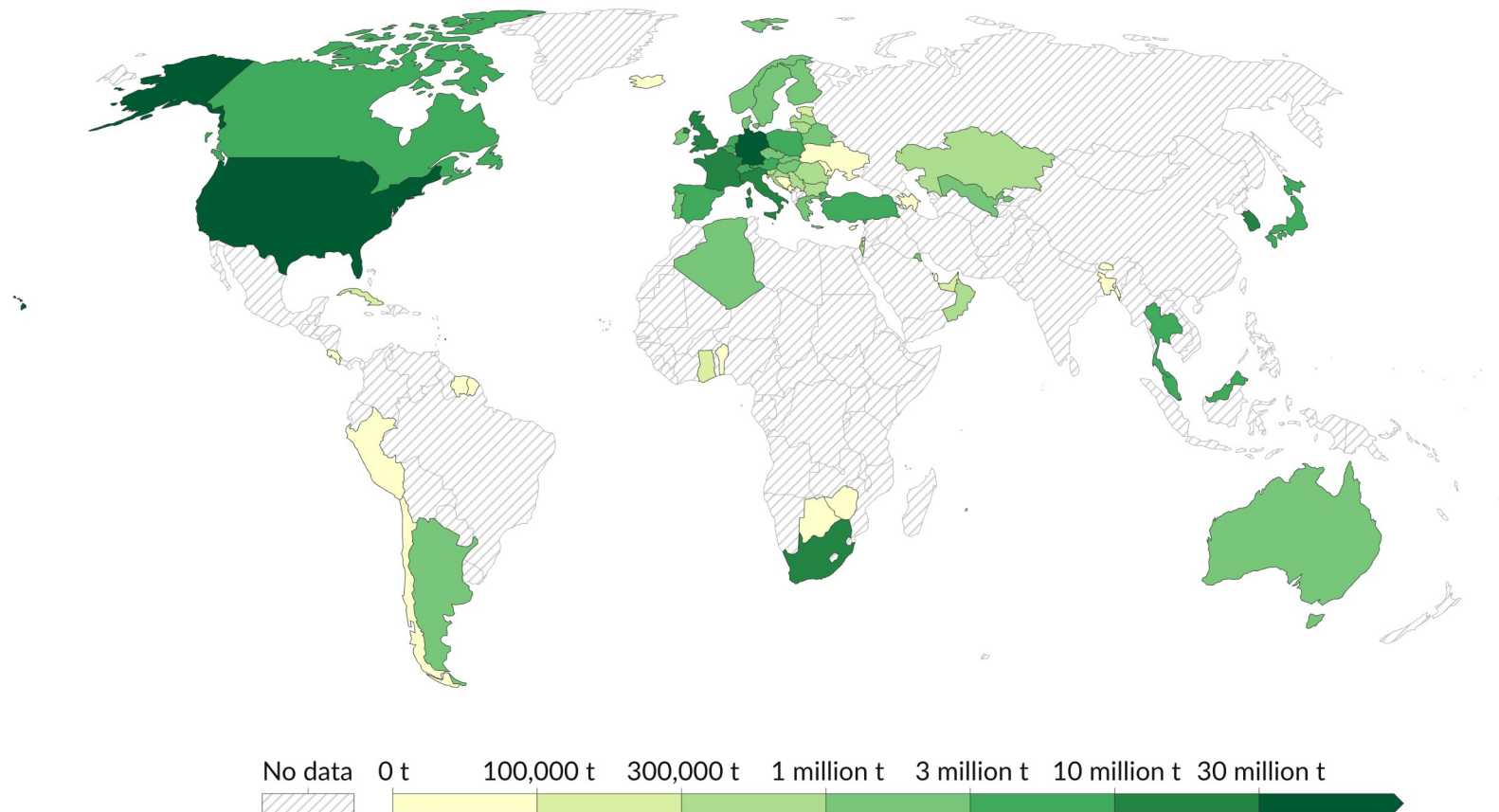


Global Overview of Municipal Waste Recycled in 2022

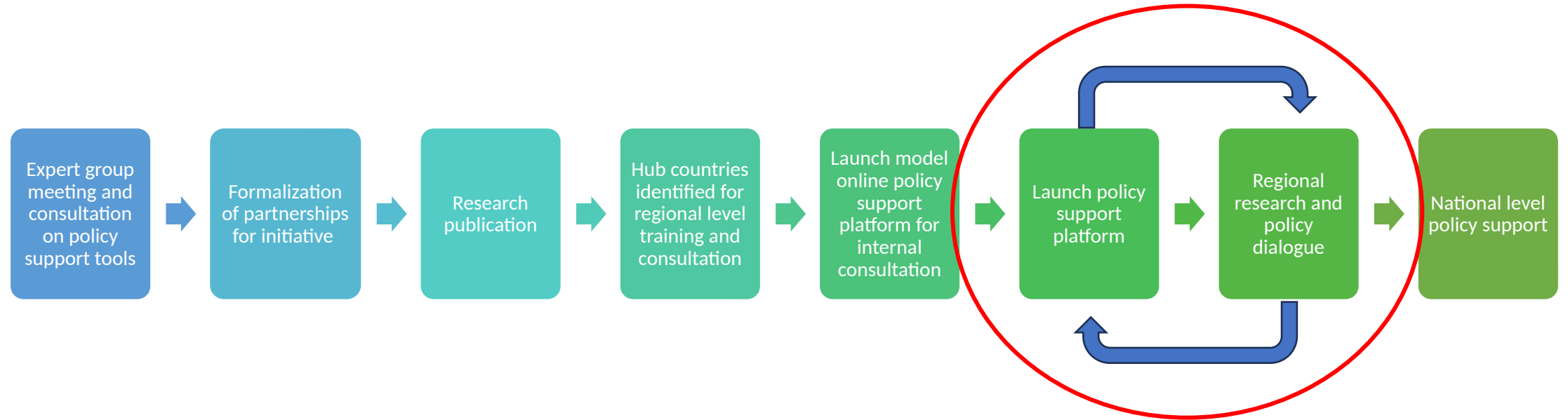
Municipal waste recycled, 2022

Our World
in Data

Municipal waste is waste from households and businesses, that would be collected by local authorities.



Regional research – Feedback loop



Workshop Objectives

Strengthen Knowledge and Data Systems:

Enhance understanding of waste management and circular economy principles, and the importance of data systems to improve data collection, monitoring, and evidence-based policy making.

Support Institutional Coordination and Leadership:

Encourage the formation of national task forces and interministerial coordination to ensure coherent data and policy design and implementation.

Facilitate Policy Learning and Regional Collaboration:

Promote the exchange of tools, case studies, and best practices to foster mutual learning and regional cooperation.

Advance Action-Oriented Dialogue and Innovation:

Generate actionable insights and recommendations to guide the design of sustainable and inclusive waste management systems.

Promote Inclusive and Equitable Systems:

Highlight the integration of gender, youth and the informal sector in circular economy strategies.

Agenda – Day 1

Session 1: Foundational concepts in waste management and resource circularity

Session 2: Taking stock - Progress and state of waste management and resource circularity in Western Africa

Session 3: Measuring what we waste - progress and gaps in solid waste management data

Session 4: Integrating Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) into Waste Management and the Circular Economy

Agenda – Day 2

Session 5: Financing Waste Management – An overview of current progress and persistent challenges

Session 6: Presentation: Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System (WMPSS)

Session 7: Achieving Inclusive and Equitable Waste Management in Plastics: Integrating Youth, Gender, and the Informal Sector

Session 8: Achieving Inclusive and Equitable Waste Management through Textiles: Integrating Youth, Gender, and the Informal Sector

Session 9: Organic Waste, Public-Private Partnerships, and the Circular bioeconomy

Agenda – Day 3

Session 10: WMPSS – Self assessing progress on Solid Waste Management:
Country Data Collection Exercise and Discussion

Session 11: Interactive Group Exercise: Bridging Data, Policy and
Implementation Gaps

Site Visit to Accra Compost and Recycling Plant

Our Workshop Approach



Emphasis on open dialogue and practical exchange



Country experiences integrated throughout



We want to hear from you!

Merci!



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Office for
Sustainable
Development



ECA



GREEN GROWTH
Knowledge Partnership

