

RWANDA, KIGALI



POPULATION
1.2 mil.
Inhabitants (2024)

COLLECTION COVERAGE EXPANSION

Currently, Kigali, Rwanda, has achieved impressive progress in waste management, with over 80% of its population benefiting from waste collection services. This transformation was driven by significant changes in waste management regulations.

The journey towards improved waste management began in 1999 when the city of Kigali took the lead in managing waste collection services. The sector was characterized by a limited presence of private companies during this period, with a few early starters like the Company for Protection of Environment and Development (COPED).

Subsequent years brought about substantial transformations. In 2001, the Rwandan Utility Regulation Authority (RURA) was established, while waste collection was outsourced to private companies due to perceived efficiencies in their ability to undertake collection and disposal activities. Starting with 2012 all collection services were fully provided by the private sector, at the same time when monopoly privatization came into force, creating monopoly zones and allowing RURA to be the independent regulator and control the service providers. It marked a turning point with the introduction of laws governing waste collection and a licensing system for sector operators, which included various criteria, including owning three trucks each carrying at least five tons capacity, demonstrating the ability to collect waste every week, submitting a viable business plan, and paying RWF 100,000 in application fees. Selected companies are required to pay a further RWF 2.5 million to RURA for a 5-year license, while also paying the authority 0.3% of quarterly turnover. This led to more organization, reducing the number of collectors from 40 to 11 licensed operators by 2013.

The privatization of waste collection services led to enhanced service quality and broader coverage. However, private operators faced challenges, struggling to achieve full cost recovery, and often relying on income from recycling and cleaning activities.

While waste collection rates improved, Kigali's waste management system still follows a linear approach. This means that waste generated is primarily collected and disposed of, with limited recycling of inorganic waste and insufficient processing of organic waste. As a result, environmental pollution remains a significant concern.

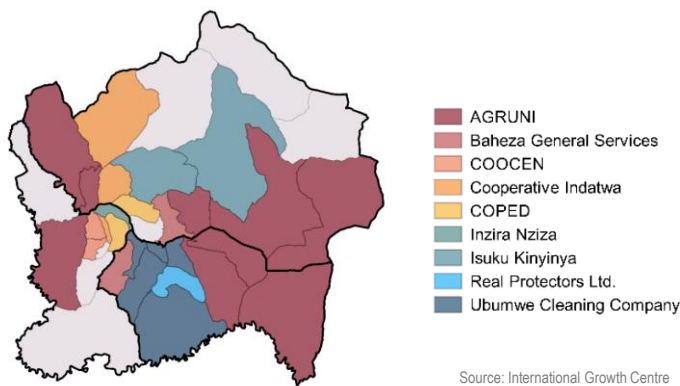




IMPACTS TO ACHIEVE SDG 11.6.1

- Kigali, Rwanda, has made significant strides in waste management, with over 80% of the population benefiting from collection.
- Impacts on achieving SDG 11.6.1 are environmental quality, public health, air quality, community well-being, resource conservation, job creation, and economic opportunities which are visibly improved by cleanliness in the city/neighborhoods.
- Challenges, including insufficient cost recovery for private operators, persist, while waste collection rates improved, Kigali's waste management remains linear, with limited recycling and processing, posing environmental pollution concerns.

Spatial distribution of waste collection companies



INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

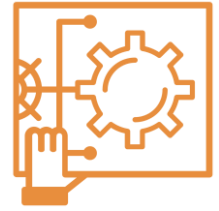


The Rwandan Utility Regulation Authority (RURA) played the main role in implementing the initiative, and the institutional stability in Kigali's waste management system is supported by a robust regulatory framework, clear laws, a licensing system, the involvement of an independent regulator, long-term planning, private sector engagement, community awareness, and adaptability to challenges. These elements collectively contribute to the effectiveness and reliability of waste management services in the city.

PLANNING & MONITORING



Effective planning and monitoring in Kigali's waste management system involve long-term strategic planning, zoning, a licensing system, specific criteria for operators, a well-structured fee system, environmental impact assessments, community engagement, and data collection/reporting. In addition to this, a monopoly privatization was into force, creating monopoly zones and allowing RURA to be an independent regulator and control the service providers. These elements collectively contribute to the success and sustainability of the waste management initiatives in the city.

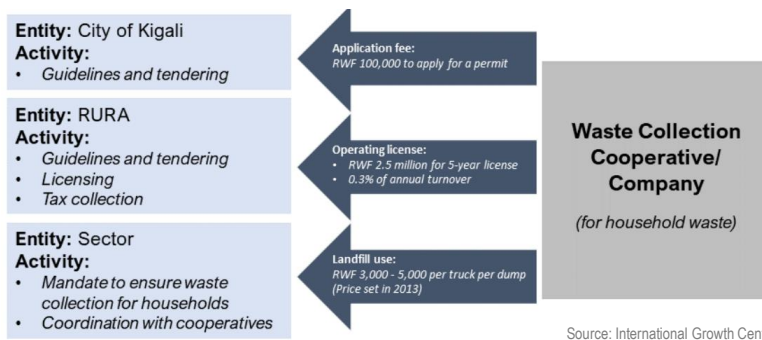


APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

Adopting an appropriate technology in waste management for Kigali involves considering solutions that are tailored to the local context, promote efficiency, and align with environmental and economic sustainability goals.

Currently, waste collection in Kigali is predominantly outsourced to private companies and cooperatives, a practice commonly observed globally and across Africa, wherein these entities collect waste and fees directly from households through contracts spanning 1 to 5 years. However, this wasn't the norm prior to 2001, as the Kigali municipality used to be the main authority responsible for waste collection and management. Following the establishment of RURA, the outsourcing of waste collection to private companies became prevalent due to perceived efficiencies in their capacity to carry out collection and disposal tasks.

Enterprises seeking to venture into the waste collection services sector in Kigali must adhere to the regulations established by RURA.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



It is supported by a well-structured fee system, cost recovery mechanisms for private operators, economic opportunities for diversification, government support, operational efficiency, infrastructure investment, transparent financial reporting, and community engagement.

This initiative has been financed mainly by private companies who pay RWF 100,000 (equivalent to USD 78, as of 12 March 2024) in application fees. Selected companies are required to pay another RWF 2.5 million (USD 19,485) to RURA for a 5-year license, while also paying the authority 0.3% of quarterly turnover.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT / INCLUSION OF INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR



By involving diverse stakeholders and recognizing the contributions of the informal waste sector, Kigali's waste management system can become more inclusive, socially responsible, and resilient. The main actors/stakeholders in the initiative are Kigali City, RURA, and private companies. The platform of privatization of waste collection services was provided for stakeholder involvement.



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