

**PSI Municipal Waste Workers Workshop
for French-speaking Africa and the Arab Countries**
Marrakesh, Morocco | 24-25 September 2019

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

Municipal waste collection and related services feature a global decent work deficit and serious health risks for workers and local communities. This area of trade union work also has significant potential for membership growth for PSI affiliates, and play a critical role with respect to urbanization, public health and the environment. It also has strategic links with the circular economy (environmental sustainability, recycling, anticipation and mitigation of climate change). Global employment in waste services is increasing worldwide because of heightened consumption, rapid urbanization and because the waste sector is often a recipient of informal workers, such as people affected by the economic recession, the working poor, marginalized groups, and migrants. Women are particularly overrepresented in informal waste work and child labour is a regular occurrence.

Municipal waste collection and related services present additional challenges: employment is fragmented across municipalities (public), private companies - including multinational corporations as SUEZ and VEOLIA - and informal waste workers, some of whom are organized in cooperatives. The sector is among the most outsourced and subcontracted deficit, but with a much higher volatility than water and electricity services, where concessions are much more rigid and regulated.

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

1. To map PSI's trade union presence in municipal waste collection and related services (collection, sorting, sorting, street cleaning, maintenance of public space and green spaces, etc.) in countries as well as in the large and intermediate cities of English-speaking Africa as follows
 - in the public sector (local and regional governments / municipalities)
 - in the private sector (including multinationals VEOLIA and SUEZ) and
 - in cooperatives of autonomous workers
2. To assess the situation and trade union priorities with respect to:
 - Trade union rights
 - working conditions
 - occupational health and safety
 - relations with municipalities, companies and cooperatives of self-employed workers.
3. To contribute to improving the working conditions of waste workers of French-speaking Africa and the Arab Countries following the preparation, adoption and contribution of participating union national action plans (or by city / metropolitan area) and shared action plan for this PSI region.
4. Identify, document and share successful practices (campaigns, collective agreements, coalitions and alliances, agreements with city halls, etc.) and other relevant initiatives of affiliates and workers' cooperatives to document, disseminate and scale them up among PSI's affiliates.