Waste, Community and Employment

Pro-poor, environmentally beneficial and profitable solutions for solid waste management

As cities across Asia strain to deal with the challenge of solid waste, an informal sector of waste management and recycling has emerged, providing opportunities for millions of urban poor. However, this informal sector is largely unregulated, leaving workers vulnerable to hazardous working conditions and irregular incomes. If integrated into a formal system, this sector could be part of a viable solution to the waste management problem.

Integrated Resource Recovery Centres (IRRCs) offer a solution that directly benefits the urban poor by providing secure employment, stable incomes and safe working conditions.

To recover waste, IRRCs work closely with the surrounding communities to train households on how to sort their waste, separating materials that can be recycled and organic waste that can be composted. The involvement of communities promotes awareness of resource recovery and ensures the separation of waste at household level; this in turn results in good quality compost.