Setting the stage for transformative waste management at project demonstration sites

**DRIVERS**

- **Lack of waste management infrastructure**
- **Environmental nuisance**
- **Compromised health and sanitation leading to health issues**
- **Aesthetic pollution**

### Overview

Solid waste management has emerged as a pivotal issue that directly affects public health and the environment. Inadequate disposal practices plague this vibrant James Town, Rawalpindi community, leading to pollution and disease transmission. WWF-Pakistan, as part of the Australia-Pakistan Water Security Initiative (APWASI), is actively striving to enhance the living conditions of James Town, Rawalpindi, by elevating solid waste management practices within the community.

### Solid Waste Management in James Town, Rawalpindi

In James Town, Rawalpindi, more than two metric tons of waste is generated daily. This waste is openly dumped and burned in most cases resulting in nuisance and threat to the health of the community members. Recognizing this situation, WWF-Pakistan, under the APWASI, installed four waste bins in the neighborhood to set the stage for transformative waste management. Each bin, with a capacity of 0.8 cubic metres, can hold up to 800 kg of waste, amounting to a total capacity of 3,200 kg. These bins have proven instrumental in reducing the dumping of municipal waste within James Town, Rawalpindi to some extent.

The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) empties these bins every two days. Since their installation, from August 2023 to October 2023, they have effectively handled more than a hundred metric tonnes of solid waste from households, benefiting over 800 community members. Consequently, the initiative has led to an approximate 60 per cent reduction in street-level open waste dumps, minimizing issues such as foul odors, nuisances, and threats to the overall health and well-being of the community.
LESSONS LEARNT

- Instead of implementing sweeping, one-size-fits-all measures, focusing on specific community needs and addressing them directly can yield more impactful results.

- Small-scale projects, when well-planned and executed, can lead to substantial improvements.

- Addressing problems at their source can be more effective and sustainable than merely managing their outcomes. This approach emphasizes minimizing waste at the household level, promoting the concept of reduction at the source.

- Community involvement and ownership in managing their waste creates a more sustainable and effective solution, emphasizing the significance of local engagement in addressing broader environmental challenges.

“The installation of waste bins in our neighborhood has greatly reduced visual pollution and the unpleasant odors associated with open dumping. Moreover, community members are now more encouraged to dispose of their household waste properly.”

- Pastor Alvin, CBO Vice President, James Town, Rawalpindi