

# **Waste Management and Urban Sanitation Challenges in the Mining Communities of Tarkwa, Ghana— Opportunities for Private Sector Participation**

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**Key words:** Urban renewal; Waste Management and Sanitation; Tarkwa Mining Area; Private sector Participation

## **SUMMARY**

Waste management and sanitation problems at the mining communities of Ghana, especially Tarkwa and its environs, are becoming alarming and raising the concerns of the general public, health, environmental and city officials for effective solutions to be found. The volumes of waste being generated, indiscriminate dumping and the associated environmental problems are beyond the resources and capabilities of the government institutions (Municipal and District Assemblies) to handle effectively. Currently, only about 45% of the waste is collected, with a backlog of about 55% piling up within the communities at unapproved locations and creating a lot of health, environmental and socio-economic problems. There is, therefore, the need for private sector participation and a sustainable waste management plan for mining communities, especially those that have developed into urban centres. These in turn require reliable data and information about past and present waste generation and disposal in these communities, the extent and sources of the problems, the present management practices and efforts by the municipal assemblies as well as the successes, failures and challenges met, for better understanding of the situation, and how to deal with it more effectively. With these as background information, this paper presents a comprehensive overview of the present municipal solid waste management and sanitation situation at the mining communities of Tarkwa, Ghana, and highlights the challenges and opportunities involved for private sector participation.

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