

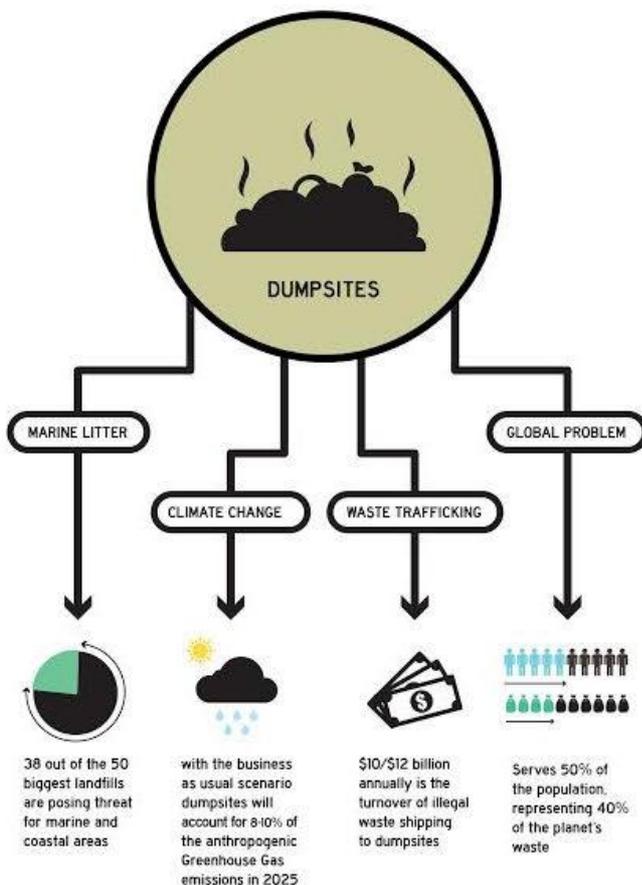
## 750 deaths in 7 months, due to poor waste management on dumpsites

Health of 64 mio people threatened by 50 biggest dumpsites in the world. ISWA presents roadmap to close them.

**Novi Sad, 19 September 2016** – At the start of its annual World Congress, ISWA – the International Solid Waste Association – presented a roadmap for closing the world’s biggest waste dumpsites. In order to protect the environment and to assure better public health and safety, open dumps have not been permitted in developed countries since more than 30 years. However, in many countries waste still ends up on dumpsites. Today, these dumpsites receive roughly 40% of the world’s waste and they serve about 3 to 4 billion people.

Fifty of the biggest dumpsites affect the daily lives of 64 million people, a population the size of France. From December 2015 to June 2016, ISWA recorded more than 750 deaths related to poor waste management and dumpsites. In South – East Asia, exposure to open dumpsites has a greater detrimental impact on a population’s life expectancy than malaria. In addition to the human/environmental impact, the financial cost of open dumpsites runs into tens of billions of USD per year.

As urbanisation and population growth continues, it is expected that at least several hundreds of millions more people will be served by dumpsites, mainly in the developing world. If the situation follows the business as usual scenario, dumpsites will account for 8 to 10% of the global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.



At the presentation of the report, Antonis Mavropoulos ISWA president and co-author stated: *“Dumpsites are becoming a global health emergency. We are well aware that closing down a dumpsite is neither a simple nor an easy task. It requires an alternative waste management system, with adequate planning, institutional and administrative capacity, financial resources, social support and finally political consensus. All of these conditions are really difficult and sometimes impossible to meet in countries where dumpsites are the dominant method of waste disposal and level of governance quality is questionable. This is why ISWA calls for the creation of an international alliance that will drive the dumpsites closure in the poorest countries of the world. We think this is the minimum response to an on-going health emergency”*

This ISWA report provides the guidance required, to each and every local authority or government, for the process and procedures required to close a dumpsite and develop an alternative sound waste management system. The report proves that all the elements for closing a dumpsite are proven and available. The report also shows that for each and every case, there is a roadmap that results in an improved waste management system with minimum environmental and health impacts.

ISWA believes that speaking about the change required is not enough anymore: *“This report is the first step of a global campaign to close the biggest dumpsites of the world. In this view, this report is not a stand-alone document but the start of an effort that will stimulate a global movement for closing down some of the world’s biggest dumpsites. ISWA will act as a catalyst that pushes potential donors or lenders to mobilize the necessary financial resources and supports local authorities and governments to close the dumpsites and create alternative waste management schemes capable to deliver a sound level of health and environmental protection.”*

The ISWA report *Roadmap for closing waste dumpsites* is intended to be a crosscutting strategic document with a focus on the political, financial, technical, environmental and social requirements needed before, during and after the closure of dumpsites.

**For more info or for a copy of the report, please contact:**

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**About the authors**

This report has been prepared as a part of ISWA’s Scientific and Technical Committee Work-Program 2015-2016. It is a collective work of the following team: Antonis Mavropoulos (ISWA STC Chair, CEO of D-Waste), Peter Cohen (Social Development Consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank), Derek Greedy (Member of ISWA’s Landfill Working Group, waste management consultant), Sifis Plimakis (Research fellow at the National Centre for Public Performance - Rutgers University), Luís Marinheiro (Chair of ISWA’s Landfill Working Group, waste management consultant), James Law (Vice-Chair of ISWA’s Landfill Working Group, SCS Engineers) and Ana Loureiro (Member of ISWA’s Working Group on Communication and Social Issues). The great photos of Timothy Bouldry have substantially advanced this report. Timothy is a photographer and activist that has been photographing, exploring and educating people about dumpsites and the people who live in them, for several years.

**About ISWA**

The International Solid Waste Association, is a global, independent and non-profit making association, working in the public interest to promote and develop sustainable waste management. ISWA’s objective is the worldwide exchange of information and experience on waste management. The association promotes the adoption of acceptable systems of professional waste management through technological development and improvement of practices for the protection of human life, health and the environment as well as the conservation of materials and energy as the conservation of materials and energy resources. ISWA’s vision is an Earth where no waste exists. Waste should be reused and reduced to a minimum, then collected, recycled and treated properly. Residual waste should be disposed of in a safely engineered way, ensuring a clean and healthy environment.