

Accra: Waste Picker Health & Safety

Waste pickers from Accra, Ghana, were surveyed to understand the main occupational health challenges and hazards they face. In total, 119 workers participated, 39 of them worked in landfill and 80 were street waste pickers; 54 were women, 62 men and three with no identified gender.

General information about the waste pickers surveyed:

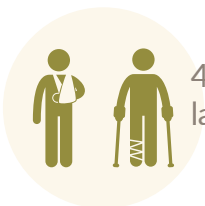


- Most landfill waste pickers were women.
- Most (90%) of the landfill waste pickers rated their own health between “poor” and “good”.

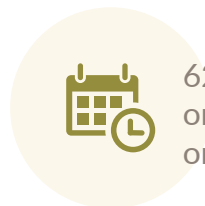


- Most of the street pickers were men.
- Most of the street pickers (91%) rated their own health between “average” and “very good”.

Workers' illness or injury affects their ability to work & earn a living:



41% of all workers related their last illness or injury to work.



62% of those who had been ill or injured had had to miss a day or more of work as a result.

The majority of workers surveyed (90%) reported experiencing ergonomic hazards while at work.



82% reported exposure to biological hazards.



62% reported exposure to chemical hazards.



Street waste pickers (95%) reported exposure to physical hazards.

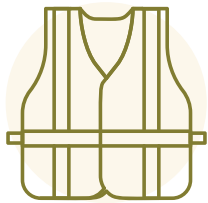


Only 8% of waste pickers were members of the NHIS.

Violence and Harassment:

- 28% of all workers reported exposure to violence and harassment at work, but this was more frequently reported by street waste pickers (35%).

The majority of waste pickers surveyed use protective equipment at work:



100%
Landfill pickers



91%
Street pickers