Establishing E-Waste Channels to Enhance Environment Friendly Recycling

gtz — COOPERATION REPUBLIC OF INDIA · FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

WEEE Recycle

switchasia PROGRAMME

The Challenge

The challenges:

- Generation of huge quantities of e-waste in the country with lack of management models;
- Huge gaps between generation and recycling of e-waste;
- 95% of the e-waste is recycled by the informal sector using crude obsolete processes caiusing health hazards and environmental pollution;
- Lack of producer responsibility of the product at the end of its useful life.

The Path to Improvements

The activities:

- Set up an e-waste collection mechanism in four project cities;
- Organize the informal sector workers and improve their efficiency;
- Training and capacity building;
- Research and development;
- Policy dialogues and dissemination activities

In a Nutshell

The project aims to improve living standards in urban centres in India and to support the implementation of the National Environmental Policy which refers to the 3R and Polluter Pays Principle involving the informal sector in waste management.

The project also addresses to reduce the pollution arising from e-waste recycling undertaken in the informal sector in 4 urban areas (Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata & Pune) by encouraging environmentally sound recycling through a collective effort of all relevant stakeholders for the value chain.
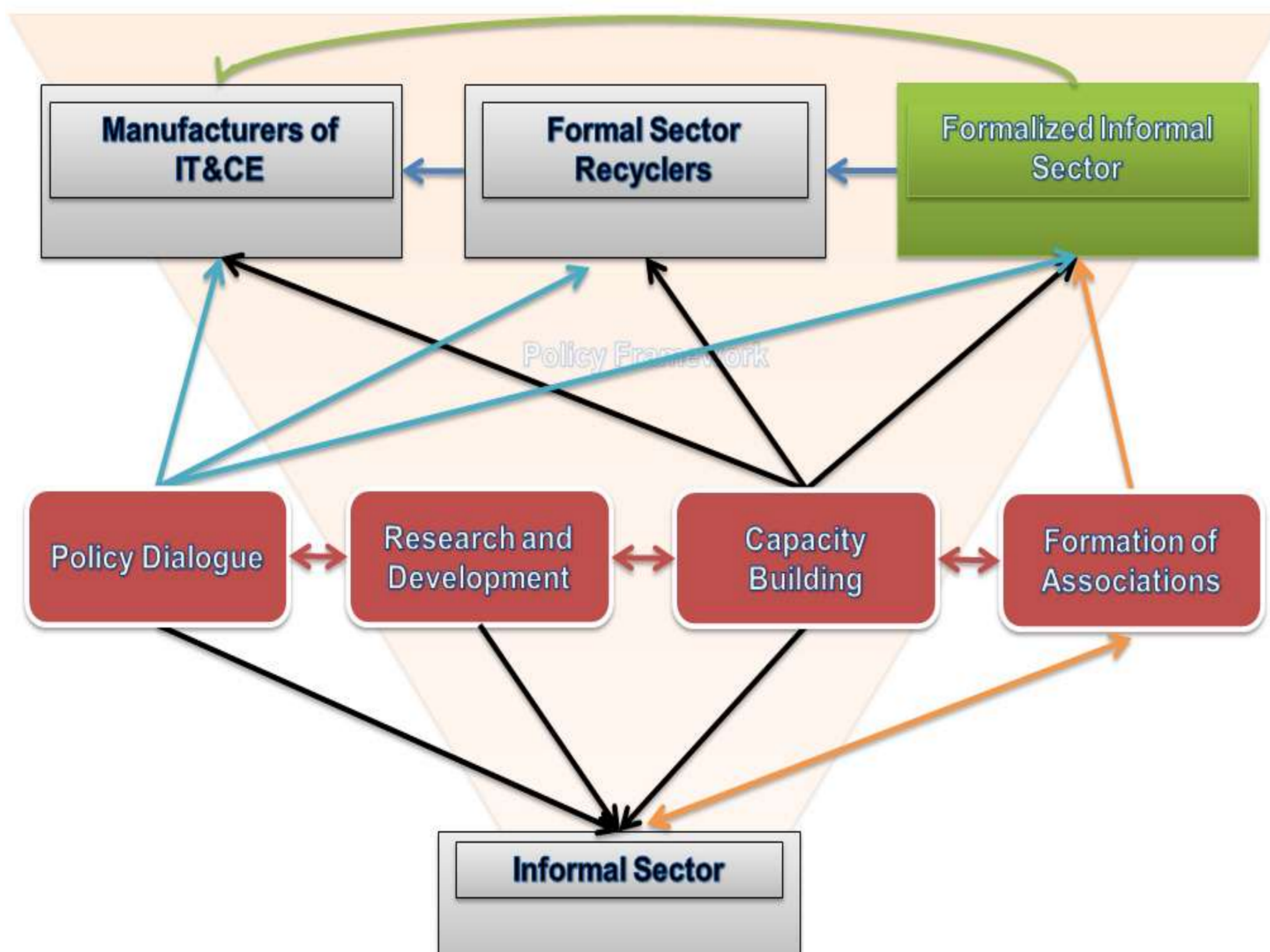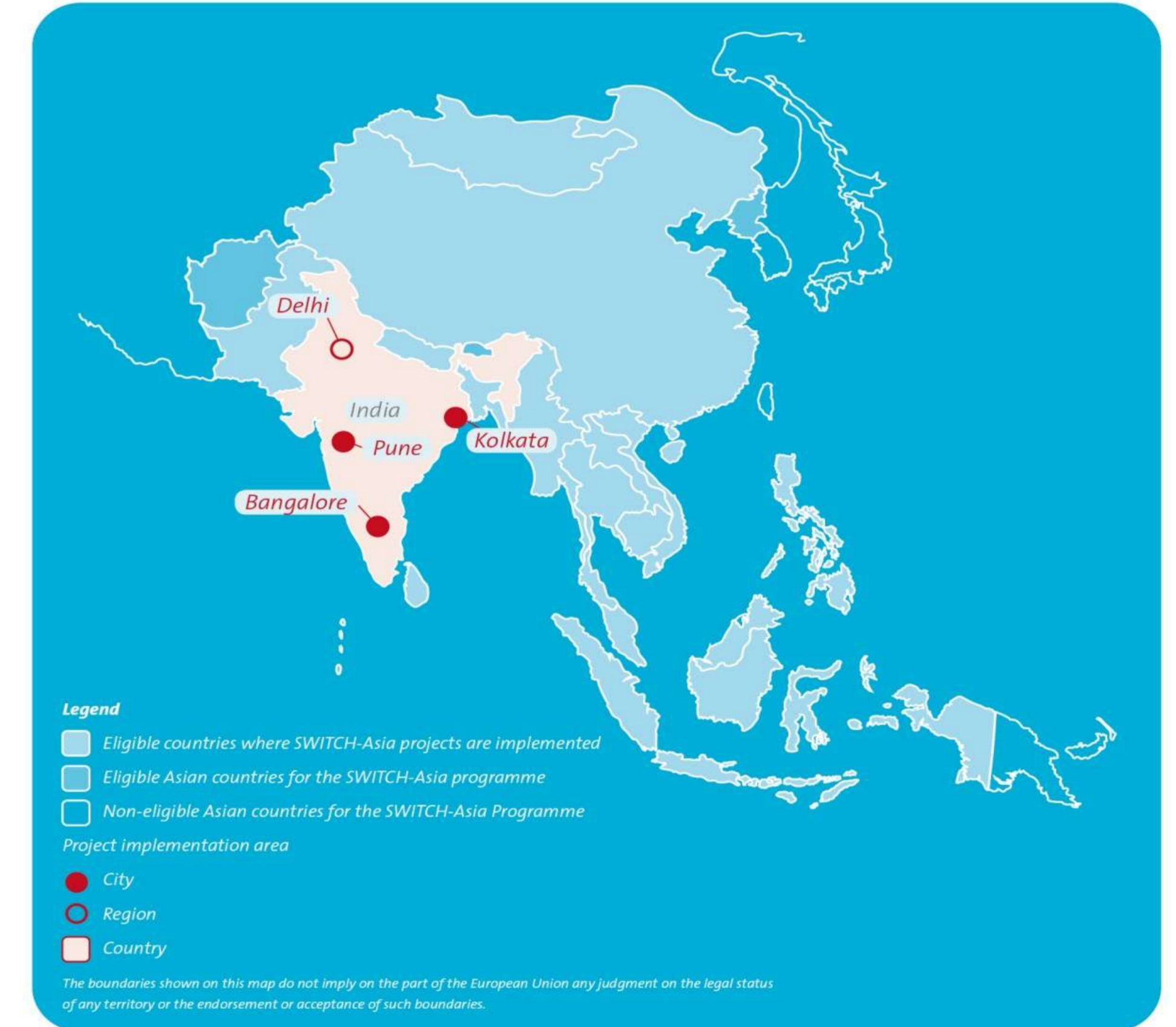

The Project and its Impact

The project is based on an integrated approach to deal with the whole process of e-waste management in order to improve the present situation. The current e-waste recycling scenario in India indicates that 95% of e-waste is recycled by the informal sector using highly polluting technologies causing threat to environment and human health.

The project seeks to amend this situation by providing technologically feasible and socially acceptable solutions for the proper channelization of e-waste and a regulation of the flow of e-waste leading to environmentally sound recycling, while at the same time involving the unorganized sector in the mainstream of recycling activity.

There is also an urgent need to provide linkages between the informal and formal sector. The last steps in the e-waste recycling chain for extracting the precious metals and other valuable raw materials are the most critical and therefore should be carried out in the formal sector. A system for organized collection channels is needed plus stakeholder participation and creating awareness among the users of electrical and electronic equipments on the disposal of the end of life equipments. In parallel to this, training and capacity building programmes are developed for all stakeholders after assessing their needs. These activities are to be accompanied by the facilitation of information exchange and networking. All tasks that are conducted simultaneously will mutual influence and provide input to each other.

The Outreach Strategy

The formation of associations would be on the basis of sound business plan, developed in partnership with the SMEs comprising the associations. The collection system, envisaged as an activity will have clear delineation of roles and responsibilities based on economic principles ensuring business sense for all the involved stakeholders. A transparent monitoring system for tracking the activities and results would be embedded in the institutional structures of the recycling associations.

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Contact:

Coordinator: Ashish Chaturvedi
GTZ-ASEM
A-33, Gulmohar Park
New Delhi
New Delhi India
Tel.:+91 11 41655662/ 46057301
Email: ashish.chaturvedi@gtz.de
www.asemindia.com

www.weeerecycle.com (under construction)

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