The Informal Economy of Pit Emptying in Blantyre, Malawi

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- Approx. 1,000,000
- 10% sewered, 10% septic, 80% pits
- No CBS
- Mix of formal and informal areas
- 5 WWTPs - none operational
- 1 WWTP accepts sludge
What’s going on

• How does the pit emptying market work?
• Who’s in the market?
• Who’s not in the market?
• And why?
Quesionnaire and shadowing

• 40 questions, day of observation
• 11 willing participants/ 14 identified
  – Only manual emptiers, no vacuum trucks
Balance Sheet

Fee: 30,000 → K 5,000

- Transport rental: K 5,000
- Transport fuel: K 7,000
- Dumping Fee: K 2,000
- Labour: K 9,000
- Chlorine: K 2,000

1000 K=1£
Real Balance Sheet

Fee: 30,000

Water

K 5,000

Transport fuel: K 7,000
Transport rental: K 5,000
Dumping Fee: K 2,000
Labour: K 9,000
Chlorine: K 2,000

Debt on Capital ($200)
Overhead (debt collection)

Inadequate Treatment
PPE
What’s going on?

• Limited market
  – Too expensive, limited awareness
  – Competition from construction, not providers

• Water for People Driven*
  – Transport, equipment, empowerment

• Financial barriers
  – Transport, dumping fees, seasonality

*this is not a paid endorsement
Ways forward

Increase Demand

Lower costs/increase profit

Lower Transport

Transfer Stations

Treatment

Local Processing

Incentives/Vouchers

Cheaper CBS
Malawi Small Town Environmental Sanitation Planning

Sustainable Off-Grid electrification of Rural Villages (SOGERV)

SOWATT: Selecting Organic Waste Treatment Technologies