

Scaling Pit Emptying Services In Blantyre-Malawi Through Pit Emptiers Association

Brian Mulenga



About Water for People

Our Vision

A world where every person has access to reliable and safe water and sanitation services.

Our Mission

Water For People exists to promote the development of high-quality drinking water and sanitation services, accessible to all, and sustained by strong communities, businesses, and governments.



Where we work

☐ **9 COUNTRIES**

Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua

Peru
Bolivia

Uganda
Rwanda
Malawi

India



water for people

- Latin America
- Africa
- India

Background Context

Why is it important to support alternative fecal sludge management models in Blantyre Peri-urban areas?

- ❑ 65% of Blantyre City's daytime population (1,068,681) live in the 21 informal settlements (low income areas) of the city.
- ❑ Provision of a piped sewer system by Blantyre City Council not feasible.
- ❑ With decreasing space for latrine construction, demand for latrine emptying is getting high.



Approach

- ❖ Capacity assessment of pit emptying business environment
- ❖ Organizational development support
- ❖ Facilitation of linkages with other pit emptying stakeholders



Capacity assessment of pit emptying businesses

- ❖ A rapid assessment conducted to ascertain hindrances in pit emptying services provision.
 - ✓ High transportation costs to the treatment plant
 - ✓ High dumping fees
 - ✓ Conflicts with BCC public health regulations
 - ✓ Expensive pit emptying equipment for potential emptiers
- ❖ Outcomes of the assessment shared with pit emptiers and relevant stakeholders (NGOs and City Council).
- ❖ Pit Emptiers mobilize themselves and elect an interim committee of the association.



Organizational development support

- ❖ Technical support to pit emptiers association in development of the first constitution.
- ❖ Provided mentorship to the executive committee in setting up systems of the association;
 - ✓ Legal registration and recognition with the Registrar of Societies in Malawi.
 - ✓ Official bank account
 - ✓ Defined official roles and responsibilities of executive members.



Facilitation of linkages with other pit emptying stakeholders

- ❖ Linking pit emptiers association with Blantyre City Council and District Health Offices.
- ❖ Pit emptiers association linkage with NGOs involved in market-based approaches to sanitation.
- ❖ Linkage with academic institutions or academicians



Tipope Pit Emptiers Association

- ❖ Currently with 15 active members in pit emptying business
- ❖ Own assets:-
 - ✓ Pick-up truck which support members on reduced faecal sludge transportation costs.
 - ✓ Pit emptying equipment which allow members to hire for pit emptying.
- ❖ Partnerships with other stakeholders (BCC, DHO, Academia and NGOs) for enhanced demand creation and provision of pit emptying services.



Lessons Learnt

- ❑ An organized private sector approach to pit emptying service provision.
- ❑ An opportunity for Blantyre City Council to reallocate resources meant for providing this service to its residents.
- ❑ Cost effective support
 - ✓ Directed to a system and not individual entrepreneur.

Challenges

- ❑ High membership fee hindering small businesses from joining the association.
- ❑ Unavailability of paid up employees to manage day-to-day operations of the association.
- ❑ Association has no legal mandate to take action on illegal pit emptiers.

Way forward

- ❑ Continue supporting partnership between Pit Emptiers Association and Blantyre City Council (BCC):
 - ✓ Setting and enforcing standards for pit emptying businesses and services.

- ❑ Support association to conduct strategic review of its operations to enhance its relevance to its members and stakeholders.

- ❑ Support association (members) in transport cost reduction.
 - ✓ DEFAST
 - ✓ Transfer tank model

Conclusion

- ❑ A case of Tipope Pit Emptiers Association has shown that:
 - ✓ Public Private Partnerships (PPP) are key in ensuring faecal sludge is sustainably managed in cities especially in the densely populated peri-urban areas.
 - ✓ Private sector like Tipope taking up pit emptying services provides an opportunity for City Councils and the government in general to save resources and direct to other public services.

Thank you for Listening!