

Social aspects in the pathway towards the closure of a dumpsite: the case of Ngong (Kenya)

Francesca Villa^{1*}, Sonia Maria Dias² and Mario Grosso¹

¹ Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo Da Vinci, 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

² WIEGO, 521 Royal Exchange, Manchester, M2 7EN, United Kingdom

* Corresponding author. Tel: +39 3490982525, Fax: +, E-mail: francesca.villa@polimi.it

Dumpsites are a common way for waste disposal around the world. Since their impact is not controlled, they represent a threat to the public health and to the environment, being a source of pollutants and greenhouse gases. The dumpsite of Ngong (Kajiado County, Kenya) has been recently targeted as a serious issue affecting the surrounding community. A project for its closure and the establishment of a new facility for waste treatment is on-going. Nonetheless, the framework appears complex from the environmental, economic and social points of view: any intervention will raise challenges for the municipal solid waste management (MSWM) system in place, which involves many stakeholders, including informal workers of the dumpsite. A social assessment has been carried out, revealing some criticalities. A general overview on the MSWM and results of this investigation are presented. The importance of qualitative and sociological research within a technological project will be discussed as well.

Key words: social assessment, closure of a dumpsite, waste pickers, low-income countries, municipal solid waste management