

Sample IEE

“Sending Waste Everywhere Except to People” (SWEEP) Project

Project Description

The SWEEP project will focus on cleaning up some of Malawi’s most persistent challenges in effective sanitation and waste management. SWEEP efforts will be implemented in Malawi’s peri-urban communities—communities that lack formal sanitation and waste management services and that are under increasing population and land-use pressures. SWEEP will prioritize clean-up and the introduction of sustainable waste management systems in primary schools and health clinics. This includes support for school-based sanitation systems and the creation of health care waste management protocols and the construction of medical waste incinerators at selected clinics.

Baseline Environment

Malawi’s peri-urban communities must support expanding populations, often housed in growing informal settlements, amidst a general lack of traditional municipal sanitation services (e.g., sewers and solid waste collection). The provision of basic health care services in these communities also generates an unmanageable stream of medical waste, much of which is infectious and presents a serious public health threat to providers, patients, and neighboring communities. Most households have very little income to commit to improved sanitation and waste management. Literacy is relatively high given access to educational opportunities and many residents’ employment in the formal sector, as well as professional and economic aspirations. Local schools and health clinics are relatively well staffed by qualified professionals, however there is fundamental lack of understanding and motivation in attempting to identify and implement sustainable waste management schemes, both among teachers and health care workers, as well as among residents.

Assessment of Potential Adverse Impacts and Recommended Determinations

- The introduction of specific waste re-use schemes prevents negligible threat of adverse impacts as the schemes will be designed with public health needs in mind and will establish protocols for the effective, safe management of these systems (Negative Determination).
- The establishment of health care waste protocols presents the risk of incomplete or inaccurate implementation by clinic staff, potentially exacerbating existing threats to public health (Negative Determination with Conditions: the establishment of health care waste protocols will be dependent on complete training and capacity building for clinic staff).
- The construction of medical waste incinerators at select clinics poses significant threat of adverse impact through inappropriate design, siting, operation and maintenance (Positive Determination: an Environmental Assessment must be completed prior to each incinerator construction).
- Community awareness-building and technical assistance in waste management will have only positive impacts on public health at the household and community level (Categorical Exclusion).
- The construction of latrines and other waste management structures present the risk of being poorly suited to local environmental conditions (e.g., soil type, rainfall, population density, etc.) (Negative Determination with Conditions: all waste management structures must be of sound quality and reflect local environmental conditions integrate best management practices).

