



POLICY PRIORITY

MOZAMBIQUE

How do waste management policies affect livelihoods? What interventions can promote recycling?

The Municipality of Maputo plans to close the Hulene trash dump site and open a sanitary landfill, potentially in Catembe or outside the city. This research aims to explore how this move will affect the livelihoods of informal and formal workers at the dump site and in the city. Mozambique also lacks policies and programmes to promote recycling and the development of a recycling industry. We seek to explore possible interventions to promote recycling and determine how these initiatives could be scaled across the country.

Policy challenge

Dump site closure: Closing the Hulene dump site could displace over 1,000 formal and informal workers, disrupting their livelihoods and creating socioeconomic pressure on the city. Policymakers must address this challenge by finding sustainable employment or alternative livelihood options. This project will provide insights for other municipalities transitioning to sanitary landfills.

Recycling industry development: Mozambique's Ministry of Land and Environment, along with local solid waste management authorities, has struggled to promote recycling due to a lack of clear policy direction. Developing a robust recycling industry is essential for environmental sustainability and economic growth. This research will explore policy interventions to facilitate this development and implement scalable solutions.

Data

Dump site closure: The Municipality of Maputo began a survey on 25 August 2024 to collect data from formal and informal workers at the Hulene dump site and around the city. This data will provide insight into the number of affected workers, their socioeconomic status, and potential impacts on their livelihoods. Additional socioeconomic data on the population working in and around the dump site is also available. Municipal planning documents for the transition to the new sanitary landfill will be useful, as will be case studies and reports from other cities that have transitioned to sanitary landfills to understand the broader economic and social implications.

Recycling industry development: Data is available from existing reports by the Ministry of Land and Environment on current waste management practices and recycling efforts. Waste volume reports from Maputo and other major cities will allow us to assess recycling potential. We also seek comparative studies from international contexts that have successfully developed recycling industries. Market data on the demand for recycled materials to support the growth of a recycling industry in Mozambique is also of interest and available.

Stakeholders

Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF); Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA); Municipality of Maputo; World Bank - Projecto de Transformação Urbana de Maputo (PTUM); Municipality of Matola; Municipality of Quelimane.

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