

## **1<sup>st</sup> JOOUST international scientific conference**

### **Best practices to solid waste management within informal settlement - the case of Kisumu**

Kisumu City generates about 437 tons of solid waste per day, 63% of which is organic in nature. With a collection efficiency of 20%, most of the solid waste remains uncollected especially within the informal settlements where 65% of the residents stay. The uncollected waste is left in the in open spaces, back streets and road sides, sometimes blocking local drainage channels and mixes with polluted waste from flooded latrines and flows in open areas, leading to appalling conditions especially in poor neighbourhoods. Solid waste management is a major concern in the city despite several initiatives that have been put in place to ensure an effective management system. This study seeks to identify best solid waste management (SWM) practices resulting from these initiatives, which are being implemented and have succeeded in some parts of the City, and transfers them to other areas. Field observations of waste management systems, administration of questionnaires to residents, In-depth interviews with waste collectors, Focus Group Discussions with key stakeholders, private waste collectors, scavengers, residents and document analysis have been used to collect data. In understanding the process of initiating these best practices, establishing them to grow, and be owned and supported by the residents, critical stages and requirements are noted for modifications to allow for transfer to other areas. The first stage identified is the realization of the need for waste collection services by the residents that creates an opportunity for any attempt for the service provision. An initiative that is likely to succeed must emerge through a local structure or institution to win confidence of the residents and be recognized by the city council. The neighborhood associations within the residential areas can provide this opportunity as a well known existing structure to act as a spring board for a private waste collection group. Support of the City council is necessary to provide recognition, any form of training and coordination to ensure cleanliness of the whole city environment. This study has used this approach to transfer best practices in solid waste management from the settlements of Manyatta and Migosi to Obunga which had no organized waste collection service. Currently, a private Waste collection group with a recognition letter from the City of Kisumu has been formed and is operational. It coordinates with the City Council Environment Department to evacuate waste from an identified temporary transfer point.