

Household's Willingness to Pay for Improved Solid Waste Collection Services in Lira City,
Northern Uganda

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Background: Waste management still remains a big challenge in most urban cities in Uganda including Lira City. This poses a great threat to human kind and the environment. Accordingly, household willingness to pay for solid waste services is paramount for better improvement of SWM at the community. Therefore, this study assessed factors influencing household's willingness to pay for solid waste collection for disposal in Lira City.

Methods: To achieve the study objectives, a survey was conducted utilizing a structured questionnaire to collect quantitative data from 585 randomly selected household heads. Key informant interview was conducted with City Environmental Officers, City Clerk, City Division Health Inspectors, Managers of Private Garbage Collecting Companies, Division Drivers and Staff Engaged in Solid Waste Collection and Market Vendors to supplement quantitative data. Descriptive analysis was used to ascertain the solid waste management practices used by the households and to determine the level of willingness to pay for improved waste collection in Lira City by the residents. The factors influencing household's willingness to pay were analyzed using a binary logistic model.

Results: The findings revealed that, 48.12% of the 585 household heads were willing to pay for improved solid waste collection services and the average amount household heads were to pay for improved solid waste collection services was UGX 3012≠ (0.84\$) per month, according to the study, education level, occupation, distance to waste collection sites, and awareness of solid waste environmental concerns were all factors that influenced the amount that households were prepared to pay.

Recommendations: As a result of the study findings, it was recommended that residents in Lira City be educated about the importance of effective solid waste management. Secondly, a thriving solid waste collection system should be built in the city, lest the environment's and human population's health will be jeopardized.

Keywords: *Household, Willingness to Pay, and Improved Solid Waste Collection Services*