



# 20<sup>th</sup> AfWA International Congress and Exhibition 2020

## Breaking new grounds to accelerate access to water and sanitation for all in Africa

**PERCEPTIONS OF SANITATION STRUCTURES AMONG THE URBAN POOR IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA:  
A QUALITATIVE STUDY.**

24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Kampala, Uganda

BEATRICE CHIWALA



# TITLE TEXT



- Background
- Research aims
- Approach
- Significance of the study
- Key findings
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- Questions

# WHY SANITATION



- *“Because human faeces can carry 50 communicable diseases, they are an efficient weapon of mass destruction. Half of the hospital beds in Sub-Saharan Africa are filled with people suffering from what are generally known as water-related diseases. Actually they are shit-related diseases” (George 2009)*

# BACKGROUND



- ❑ Research was an integral to completing Masters Degree in Social Work and Human Rights.
- ❑ Was undertaken in Kalingalinga compound of Lusaka, Zambia.
- ❑ 32 respondents participated in the study – 13 men and 19 women
- ❑ Psychological theories of Social cognitive theory, Theory of reasoned action and Theory of planned behavior – understand and explain behavior

# APPROACH



- Qualitative research methodology was employed.
- Data was collected using semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions.
- Purposive sampling method was used to select respondents
- Thematic data analysis was used to analyze the data

# Research aim



- **Overall aim:** To explore households' views about constructing their own flush toilets and connecting them to the sewerage network in Kalingalinga phase one project area of Lusaka.

# Sub-aims



1. To explore perceptions about flush toilet
2. To explore knowledge and perceptions on good sanitation and its benefits to health.
3. To explore views about hindering factors to constructing flush toilets

# SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY



- To know and understand the perceptions households have on flush toilets as a sanitation technology for Peri-Urban areas
- To contribute to sanitation knowledge base that can be used to assist households make informed decisions and choices to invest in improved sanitation facilities at household level



# FINDINGS



1. Respondents were very much aware of the benefits of flush toilets, good sanitation and its relationship to health.
2. However this did not translate into them constructing their own flush toilets due to the following reasons:

# FINDINGS CONT.



- ❖ Satisfaction with current sanitation facilities.
- ❖ Lack or limited information necessary to make informed decision.
- ❖ Landlords with multiple households on same plot lacked the trust in tenants managing flush toilets for fear of blockages and maintenance costs.

# FINDINGS CONT.



- ❖ Toilet construction was not a priority due to other commitments.
- ❖ Dependency on husbands and children to fund construction of flush toilets.
- ❖ Lack of resources which varied from household to household.
- ❖ Lack of trust in the operationalization of the new sewerage network system.

# INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS



- Internal household decision processes affect access to sanitation
- Identifying and incorporating variations in household needs in any sanitation improvement intervention is critical– defeats “one size fits all”
- Confirms that access to sanitation has a power and gender face.
- Creation of sustained trust among households in any new sanitation intervention is critical to its success
- Access to accurate and timely information assist households make informed choices and decisions.

# TO SUM UP



- Addressing the socio-economic and cultural barriers to improved sanitation should be a priority.
- Construction of a sanitation facility at household level was evidence of a changed mindset.



# THANK YOU

