

Day2

Title : 5. Case Studies and Knowledge Sharing on Waste Management in Africa

(3) Emergency Response Plan for Landfill Collapse Accident in Maputo

Speaker :

Mr. Joao Agostinho Mucavele, Municipal Director for Waste Management and Cemetry,
Maputo City Municipal Council, Mozambique

Summary

The purpose of the presentation is to share the experience on Hulene Dumpsite's tragedy. A huge amount of waste collapsed at the dumpsite, causing the death of 16 people and injuring other 6 people in February 19, 2018 due to the saturation capacity of the dumpsite, the illegal human settlement in the surrounding area of the dumpsite, and the delay on the construction of the new landfill.

The Maputo Municipality immediately requested JICA for assistance to avoid similar secondary disasters. After resettlement of all affected households, the Municipality initiated a process of identification of a site to establish a temporary dumpsite and prioritized the process of resettlement of the illegal residents living in the area where the new landfill is supposed to be constructed. Meanwhile, the Municipality also conducted intensive public education campaign on the risks of illegal construction in the dumpsite surrounding area.

The lessons learned from the collapse were also shared by the presenter. The management of dumpsites and landfills must not be seen as a second priority when compare to other sectors/issues such as health, education, etc. so that resources allocation (human, financial and material) and investment will be done using the same criteria. There is need to improve the land use planning system to avoid people living in the proximity to infrastructures such as dumpsites, to put their lives in danger. The tolerance/negligence of the illegal human settlement in at risk area such as dumpsites is a risk itself, therefore, no pretext should be accepted to ignore the boundaries that are legally defined in regard to the proximity of residences to a dumpsite. As JICA experts recommended, the structure of a dumpsite infrastructure should comply with specific safety measures such as stable slope (Maximum slope angle 30 degrees) and others. There is need to organize the waste pickers activity to avoid future disasters resulting from their exposure to the risks of the activity.