

# Assessing the determinants of occupational health risks among domestic waste collectors

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## Impact of the Dissertation

Occupational morbidities are a major public health concern worldwide, but they are under-researched in low- and middle-income countries (Kruk et al., 2018; Lasota & Hankiewicz, 2020). Despite the fact that the need for workplace health and safety protection and promotion has been emphasized in several policy documents, including the ILO Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention and the WHO Declaration on Workers Health (Alli, 2008; Burton, 2009; ILO, 2005; Burton, 2010; Kruk et al., 2018). Understanding the practices and morbidities of DWCs is critical to ensuring their safe means of earning a living (Mossburg et al., 2019; Nguyen et al., 2021; Van Nguyen, Tran, Hoang, Nguyen, & Nguyen, 2020). Evidence from this dissertation suggests that DWCs are faced with stigmatization and harassment because their work is considered to be dirty (“Borla” “Borla”) and therefore not deserving of respect, poor and marginalized social groups engage in solid waste collection for income generation and, in some cases, daily survival. If the working conditions of DWCs can be improved, it can result in extreme poverty and hunger. As a result, because waste workers are poor and vulnerable, it is necessary to address their health, education, living conditions, and occupational safety need to meet other SDG goals such as Goals 3 and 6.

The findings from this dissertation could provide the basis for the mainstreaming of the risks of occupational health and safety policies into Ghana’s Medium-Term Development Plan. This will focus on health and safety policy, psychosocial health risk, work-related stress, negative attitudes and perceptions of risky behavior of DWCs towards solid waste management in Ho Municipality in the Volta Region of Ghana, and other health-related issues such as incidence of diseases, accident, and injuries, as well as job satisfaction. This dissertation will contribute empirical evidence to the development of an intervention or a prevention program to promote occupational health and safety in Ghana. It is expected that the policy relevance of this study will be high. Results from this dissertation will be disseminated to the wider public through radio talk shows and workshops and contributions in newspapers. There will also be Stakeholder workshops (which may produce fliers), and consultations as well as professional publications in Collaboration with Maastricht University, the Netherlands, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, and Science, and Technology, and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and as well as other relevant stakeholders involved in waste management activities will make possible the implementation of findings from the dissertation. This research will also contribute to filling the gap because of the uniqueness of the study with the recommended use of intervention mapping for future research, which will contribute significantly to adapting to the most effective model for managing waste and occupational health risks among domestic waste collectors. The research will complement and supplement all the other studies that have been done in this area.