# Environmental Health

## Project Summary

### Problem

There is a high burden of disease in South Africa linked to environmental stressors which exacerbate many social and environmental issues. Poor waste management threatens public health through rises in vector-borne diseases and infectious diseases, worsening security for vulnerable populations and can lead to increased mental health stress. Current systems cannot cope with the volumes of waste generated by an increasing urban population, and this impacts the environment and public health.

### Proposed Solution

Address environmental health issues through community engaged development of safe solid waste management systems. Develop fully equipped waste management stations and community gardens that will serve as an alternative income for vulnerable families living in Rustenburg's many informal settlements. Improve safety for women accessing latrines.

### Potential Impact

- Potentially reduces negative impact on public health caused by climate change e.g., rises in vector-borne diseases and infectious diseases, worsening extreme weather events, a decline in food security, and increased mental health stress.

### Viability

- Builds on learnings and momentum of OCB pilots in Zimbabwe.
- Places communities at the center of the project and involved in all stages of the project cycle from early project planning to implementation and management of the waste plant.

### Risk Mitigation

- Leverages close collaboration and coordination with local authorities, communities and other waste- and environmental health projects.
- Uses well-known recycle methods and low-tech waste management systems.

### Scalability

- Uses the pilot case as proof of concept to replicate the program and the business model in other communities and countries.

**Area/Type:** Other
**Sponsor/Support:** *MSF Southern Africa*
**Length/Project Status:** 12 months; **ONGOING**