

### **Addition file 1. Recruitment and Sampling Response Data**

Invitations to participate for groups A and B were sent via email. Most in group A were known to the PhD researcher or supervisors through The Smokeless Village, either as team members or steering group members. For group B, references to relevant policymakers in Malawi were obtained from one of the steering group members based in Malawi's energy sector. Seventeen email invitations were sent to academic researchers, policymakers, and non-governmental leaders. Ten agreed to participate, of which two were excluded, one due to time availability and the other due to minimal experience with a community-level participatory approach.

Invitation to participate was face-to-face for the group C participants with the assistance of the village leaders who were familiar with community members with past experiences in community participatory research. Although all the eight invited in group C agreed to participate, only five who met the inclusion criteria were interviewed.