Governance of Decentralized Sanitation

Design of Strategies to Improve Sanitation in Slums

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Course Outline

• Why plan for slum sanitation?
• Constraints to Planning
• Conditions necessary for successful Sanitation Planning
• A planning Approach for Slum Sanitation
  – Situational Analysis
  – The feasibility
  – Action Planning
  – Implementation
  – Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation
• Examples of Planning Approaches
• Recap
Importance of planning for sanitation in slums

- Improved sanitation coverage in urban slum areas is extremely poor due in part to low political priority and planning (2.5 billion people have not access to improved sanitation & yet sanitation is key to public health)

- Planning for sanitation has generally been top-down (centralised) resulting in unsustainable sanitation solutions and slow progress towards achieving the MDG (Top-down market oriented master-planning focuses mostly on infrastructure)

- Planning helps in the understanding & matching of stakeholders’ interests, needs and constraints with an appropriate & acceptable management scheme & financial mechanisms

- Planning aims to transform the complex sanitation processes into a well-organised and coordinated management framework, usually initially expressed in the form of a city sanitation plan or city-wide sanitation strategy

- Every solution should be context specific & integrated
People designated with the responsibility of planning & implementing city-wide sanitation systems often face challenges –

- Complexity of sanitation value chain (toilet, storage, transport, treatment and disposal or re-use)
- Uncoordinated & independent stakeholders managing various activities
- Conflicting interests, needs and constraints
- Lack or poor regulatory frameworks (e.g. not recognising some commonly used on-site sanitation technology systems)
- Lack of an enabling environment
- Insufficient organisational capacity (community/utility/local government)
- Lack of cost recovery mechanisms
Technical Challenges

• Bad physical location of many informal settlements

• Complicated site layouts

• Limited technological choices due mostly to planning regulations

• Political interference from government and aid-agencies

• Communities never involved in choice of technology, planning & Design, O & M
Slum conditions
Slum conditions
Desludging
Examples of failed projects due to poor planning

- Kumasi VIP Project in Ghana
- Toilets in the Veldt (South Africa)
- Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant located 15Km from city
- Abandoned toilets in India

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Failed projects

Gedu wastewater treatment plant – Bhutan (2005-2009)

Leadership in the planning process – one institution to provide leadership so objectives can be achieved (e.g. Local authority)

Participatory approach – all stakeholders should be involved & competencies sought (e.g. current emptying providers even illegal)

**Conditions necessary for successful planning**

Components of an enabling environment (Luthi et al., 2011)
Government support

- Political commitment and support (Reluctance to share power)
- Relevant national policy frameworks and sector strategies
- Receptive local authorities and decision makers
Legal and regulatory framework

- Balancing of long term strategies with short-term expectations
- Regulatory inconsistencies
- Lack of regulations or unrealistic standards
- Poor enforcement
Institutional arrangements

- Public and private actors
- Roles and responsibilities
- Governance issues
- Capacities of each stakeholder
- Influence and interest of stakeholders
- Coordination of different players
Skills and capacity

- Skilled facilitators at agency and community levels
Financial Arrangements

- Participatory activities may be costly and they take time – need for all stakeholders to have a clear picture about the sustainability of the plans
- Cost recovery is low & non-payment culture
- Difficult to balance financial sustainability & poverty reduction objectives
Socio-cultural issues

• User preferences

• Traditional, cultural and religious beliefs

• No clear communication channels between communities and sanitation agencies

• Low Literacy levels & understanding of sanitation technologies and practices

• Poorly organised CBOs
A Planning Approach for Slum Sanitation