



Setting up mechanisms for continuous mobilisation of local financing

Creating mechanisms for local, long-term financing, in particular through (moderate) fees applied to existing and financially profitable public services (usually water), can guarantee the continuity of the sector. They enable sanitation programmes to be developed, operating costs to be recovered and have an important leverage effect in mobilising outside financing.



COMMITTED TO WATER FOR THE WORLD.

African Union summit at Sharm El Sheikh: African governments mobilising for sanitation

In July 2008, at the 11th African Union summit, African governments ratified the declaration adopted at the 2nd edition of AfricaSan (South Africa) which recommends three levels of commitment: 1) Adopt or update national action plans for hygiene and sanitation; 2) Create a single institution for coordination of the sector; 3) Provide the sanitation sector with a specific budget equal to at least 0.5% of the GDP of each country.

Professionalisation and support of the entire process

The public institutions in charge of planning and regulating the sanitation sector must be able to rely on the strength of the local private sector. If they are to be operational and effective, the collaborative ventures to be developed require mutual recognition and dialogue between the various stakeholder groups, along with training and technical assistance.

Sanitation: a priority for French cooperation

In 2008, France published a strategic guideline document on wastewater sanitation, which brought together all stakeholders (Ministries, NGOs, local authorities, private companies and academic institutions) around the intervention principles described here.

The French Development Agency (AFD) made sanitation a key point of its "water" strategy. From 2001 to 2005 its sanitation projects accounted for 30% of its total "water" commitments. It set itself the goal of financing wastewater treatment and access to drinking water for an equivalent number of beneficiaries. From 2001 to 2005, its aid enabled an extra 1.1 million people to benefit from access to sanitation and an extra 3.5 million people to enjoy an improved sanitation service.

SANITATION, A VITAL PRIORITY FOR THE POPULATIONS

In order to achieve the MDGs, it is necessary:

- to provide basic sanitation for all,
- to act on the entire wastewater process, from collection to treatment, reuse and recycling.

Meeting the challenge of sanitation for all is possible through:

- the use of various forms of collective and on-site sanitation
- infrastructure but also attitudes and hygienic habits.
- mobilisation of public authorities, users, economic stakeholders and professionals

Sanitation as considered in this document comprises the entire chain: domestic and industrial wastewater, excreta and sludges. The following recommendations must be preceded by a political validation process in order to guarantee their effective implementation and their integration into local planning strategies.

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Sanitation is everybody's business. So are the considerable health, environmental and economic benefits.

Sanitation is a driving force for social and economic development

Sanitation saves lives

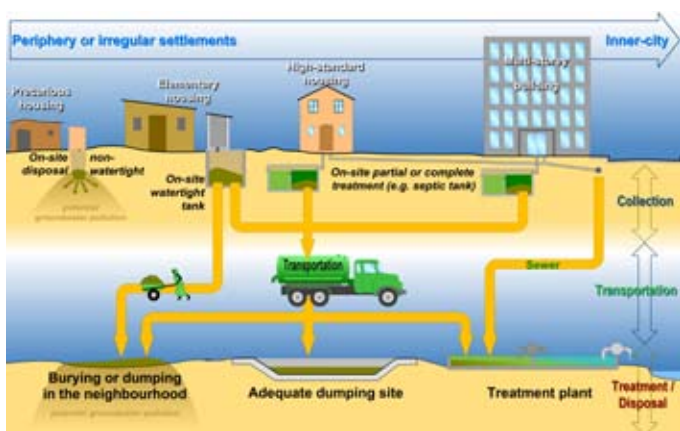
A lack of access to sanitation is one of the main causes of diarrhoea and related diseases, which kill 2 million people around the world every year, more than 90% of whom, are children under 5 years old.

Sanitation protects the environment

The context of rising urbanisation is exerting unprecedented pressure on aquatic and coastal ecosystems. In 2009, more than 50% of the world's population lives in an urban environment. Sanitation reduces the threat from uncontrolled discharge of effluents into the habitat, the water resources and the environment of the urban zones.

Sanitation contributes to economic development

A lack of sanitation has a direct impact on the ability of the inhabitants to work and on the vigour of the economy. For each euro invested in sanitation, 8 euros are saved, in particular through falling health costs and rising labour productivity.



Priorities for meeting the sanitation challenge

Considering sanitation as a whole

Sanitation is a chain of actions and players comprising three links, each with its own specific challenges requiring an appropriate response.

→ Link n°1: developing access to sanitation

Access to sanitation means sanitation installations that are stand-alone or connected to a network. These installations can be either individual or semi-collective. In developing countries, owing to low investment capability, sanitation is primarily stand-alone and this will be extensively developed further in the coming years.

→ Link n°2: collecting and evacuating waste

Collection and evacuation primarily concern wastewater and drainage sludge. Evacuation involves a network of sewers for collective sanitation and emptying vehicles for on-site sanitation.

2008, "International Year of Sanitation"

This provided a clearer picture of the condition of 1.2 billion people who have no choice other than open-air defecation and revealed just how far the international objective is from being met. Guaranteeing access to hygienic toilets only meets some of the sanitation needs of the population. It is also necessary to evacuate the wastewater from the home and protect individuals against potential contamination from their neighbours or human activities situated upstream.

→ Link n°3: treating and reusing effluents and sludge

The public authorities and development partners must turn their attention to management systems for the drainage sludge resulting from stand-alone sanitation and treatment of the wastewater from collective networks in treatment plants, which are vital to protecting health safety and the environment.

Globally, 85% of all anthropic pollution returns to the natural environment without treatment. Africa, which should be home to 1.8 billion inhabitants in 2050, as against 850 million today, only treats 2% of its urban, industrial and domestic pollution, and is experiencing catastrophic deterioration of its aquatic and coastal ecosystems.

Giving a proper place to hygiene and a change in attitudes

Improving sanitation installations is not enough: the use of latrines can reduce the risk of diarrhoea by 40% but hand-washing using soap reduces it by 50%. Instilling a culture of hygiene must be a permanent aspect of any water and/or sanitation access project.

A sanitation strategy for a capital city, Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso

For the past 15 years, the National Water and Sanitation Office (ONEA) has helped develop improved stand-alone sanitation systems through promotion among the beneficiaries, subsidies in kind (85,000 individual facilities installed) and definition of a management scheme for mechanical drainage sludge. Collective sanitation for the industrial zone and town centre and the creation of a treatment lagoon were made possible in particular thanks to the support of the French Development Agency (AFD).