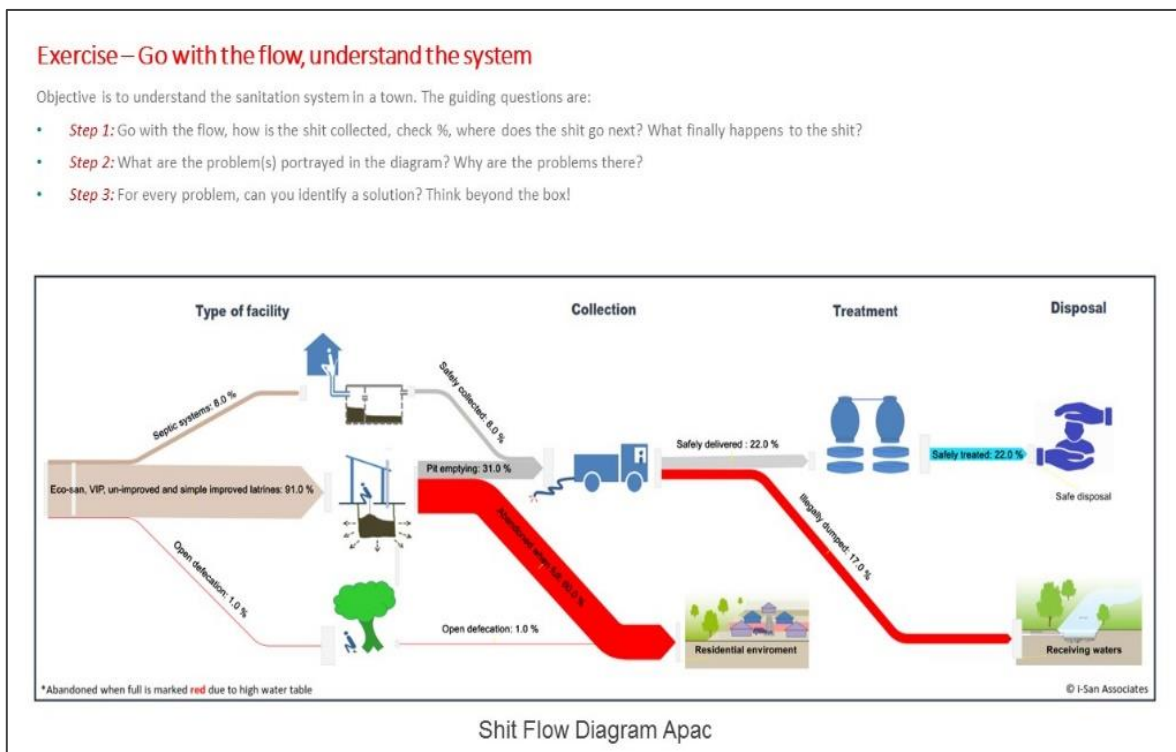


SFD Thinking

Adding iconography can make it easier to grasp the sanitation reality of a city – experiences from a workshop in Uganda



In a town sanitation planning workshop in Apac, Uganda, the SFD was chosen as a visual tool to highlight the critical issues in sanitation existing in the towns and to have a common understanding of the FSM situation across the sanitation chain. As most participants came from different backgrounds it was thought to be easier for all participants to understand icons rather than engineering flow charts.

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Introduction

GIZ RUWASS with co-funding from USAID undertook a three-year project (May 2014-2017) to support and build capacities in six town councils in Northern Uganda, to develop and implement town sanitation plans. The aim of the sanitation plans were to make tangible and incremental improvements in the sanitation situation of households, schools and health facilities. The town of Apac, with a population of 14,503 inhabitants was one of the six project towns where an SFD was developed and used.

A comprehensive town sanitation plan was developed with the active involvement of a broad stakeholder platform consisting of technical and non-technical groups such as: the town council staff, community development officers, NGOs, CBOs, private operators, representatives of schools and health centres, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), the administrative and political bodies from the towns, etc. The SFD was chosen as a visual tool to highlight the critical issues in sanitation existing in the towns and to have a common understanding of the FSM situation across the sanitation chain.

Process of creating an SFD

The SFDs were created from data collected in rapid baseline assessments. Since the SFD Promotion Initiative tools were not available yet, the SFDs were developed using the software e-Sankey. Icons and images were used to make the SFDs more reader friendly and depict the different stages of the faecal flow. This was done keeping in mind that most participants came from different backgrounds and it would be easier for them to understand icons rather than engineering flow charts.

A one-day workshop was organised to present the findings of the baseline assessment using the SFD in Apac and discussing the situation of FSM in their towns; whether or not the data presented was representative of ground realities, the problems related to each element of the sanitation chain and proposing solutions for the problems identified. The discussions were then noted and collected to develop the overall framework of the sanitation plan.

Outcomes and results of the SFDs

The SFDs identified specific data gaps with regards to quantifying sludge volumes. The deeper the planning process proceeded with specific interventions, the more evident it was that more data was required to quantify sludge production, collection, transport and treatment. This prompted further surveys and data collection/analysis. The end-result was a detailed sanitation plan covering the entire sanitation chain, based on technical and non-technical options for improvement.

Benefits and influence of SFDs

The SFD was used as a visual advocacy tool to gain a common understanding of the current FSM challenges in the town of Apac. The SFD provided a structured approach to the discussions with stakeholders on issues related to FSM. It was used to bring a wide stakeholder group together to identify the problems concerning FSM, their possible causes and proposed generic interventions across the sanitation chain. The visual representation, ensuing discussion and presentations helped gain a common understanding of the existing FSM situation.

This realisation was helpful as a stepping block towards a coordinated planning exercise that the towns are currently undertaking. Additionally, the workshop was the first time the town council staff, the private pit emptier and civil society representatives met face-to-face and discussed issues regarding cost of emptying, level of service provision, enabling the scaling up of emptying services in the town and providing a treatment facility closer to the towns. This discussion formed the basis for sanitation planning in these towns.

The SFD Promotion Initiative collects examples and feedback on ways in which SFDs are used. These experiences are documented as the ‘SFD Thinking’.

If you would like to tell us your story, send us a message: sfd@susana.org

SFD Thinking are available from: www.sfd.susana.org

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