



Process of Developing Urban Wastewater Policy for Afghanistan

Catering to Decentralized Wastewater Management Needs

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November 20, 2012

Outline

- Why is an updated urban wastewater policy needed?
 - Wastewater aspects in existing policy
 - Wastewater management practices in urban areas
- What are the key elements in the policy review process?
 - Compliance with existing Legal Framework and National Priorities
 - Stakeholder involvement
 - Geographical and sector scope
 - Sustainability

Why is an updated urban wastewater policy needed?

Wastewater aspects in Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Sector Policy, 2005

- The policy establishes sound principles for the urban water sector: e.g. cost recovery, decentralization, technical standardization.

BUT

- It does not provide a specific and relevant framework for wastewater management. It does not address the reality on ground

- ‘The policy is concerned with **sewerage** services to urban and peri-urban communities’
 - Sewerage systems essentially do not exist (except Macroyan, Shahrak Omed-e-Sabz)
- ‘This policy also concerns collection, treatment and safe disposal of urban **wastewater**’
 - No defined scope on the types of wastewater or a guiding framework for their management
- ‘Management of solid waste and product of traditional toilet waste is specifically excluded’
 - No separate policy on traditional latrines in urban areas was found, i.e. a large part of urban population excluded from the policy framework

Why is an updated urban wastewater policy needed?

Wastewater management practices in urban areas

Toilet Facilities

Pour-flush toilet attached with
a soakage well





Drinking water
well

Toilet

Deep, dry pit latrine (10 m)



After it fills up (takes many years), it is filled with soil and closed and a new latrine is dug

Raised dry pit latrine *at the office of the Kunduz Water Utility*



Raised dry pit latrine with urine diversion and anal cleansing water also used



Condition of alleyways with raised dry pit latrines



Condition of alleyways with raised dry pit latrines



The latrine cleaner and transporter of material to farmers



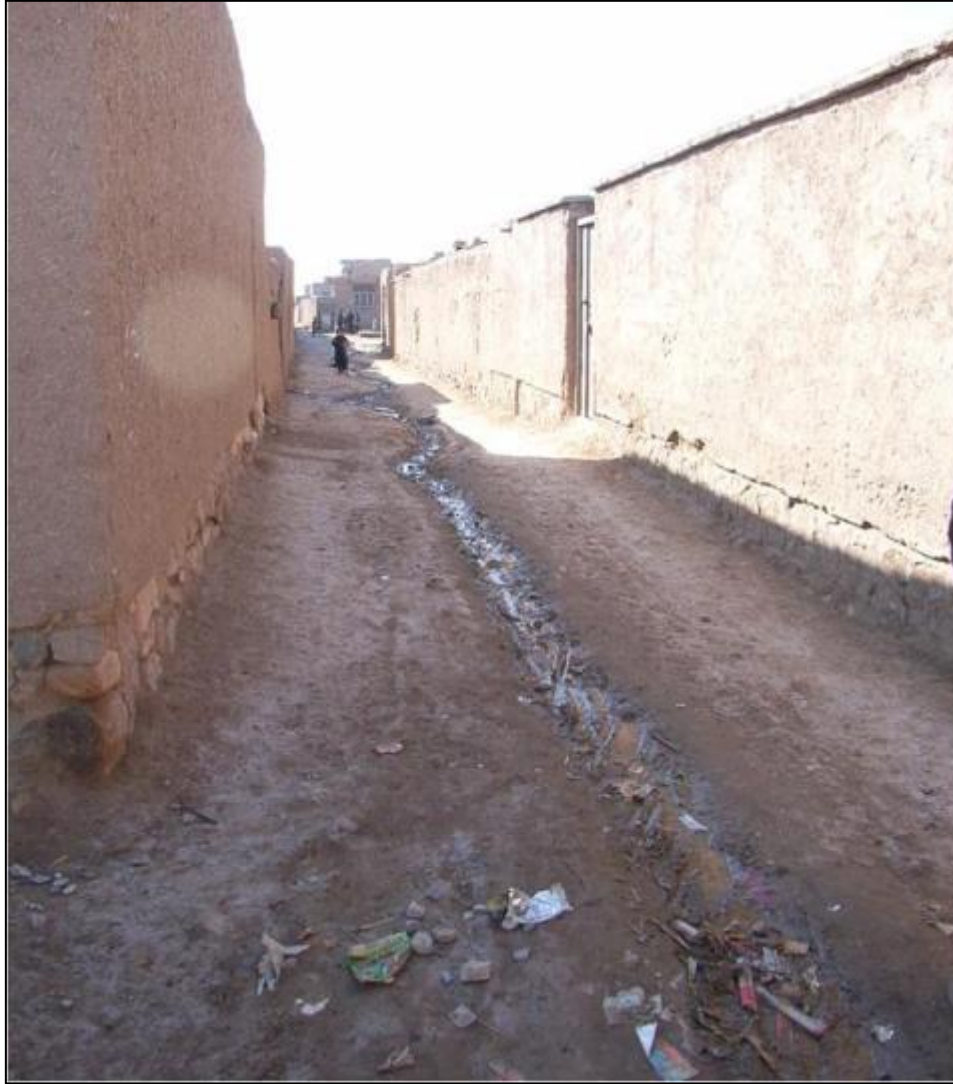


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Greywater



Greywater drainage into streets



Greywater drainage into soakage wells under the street

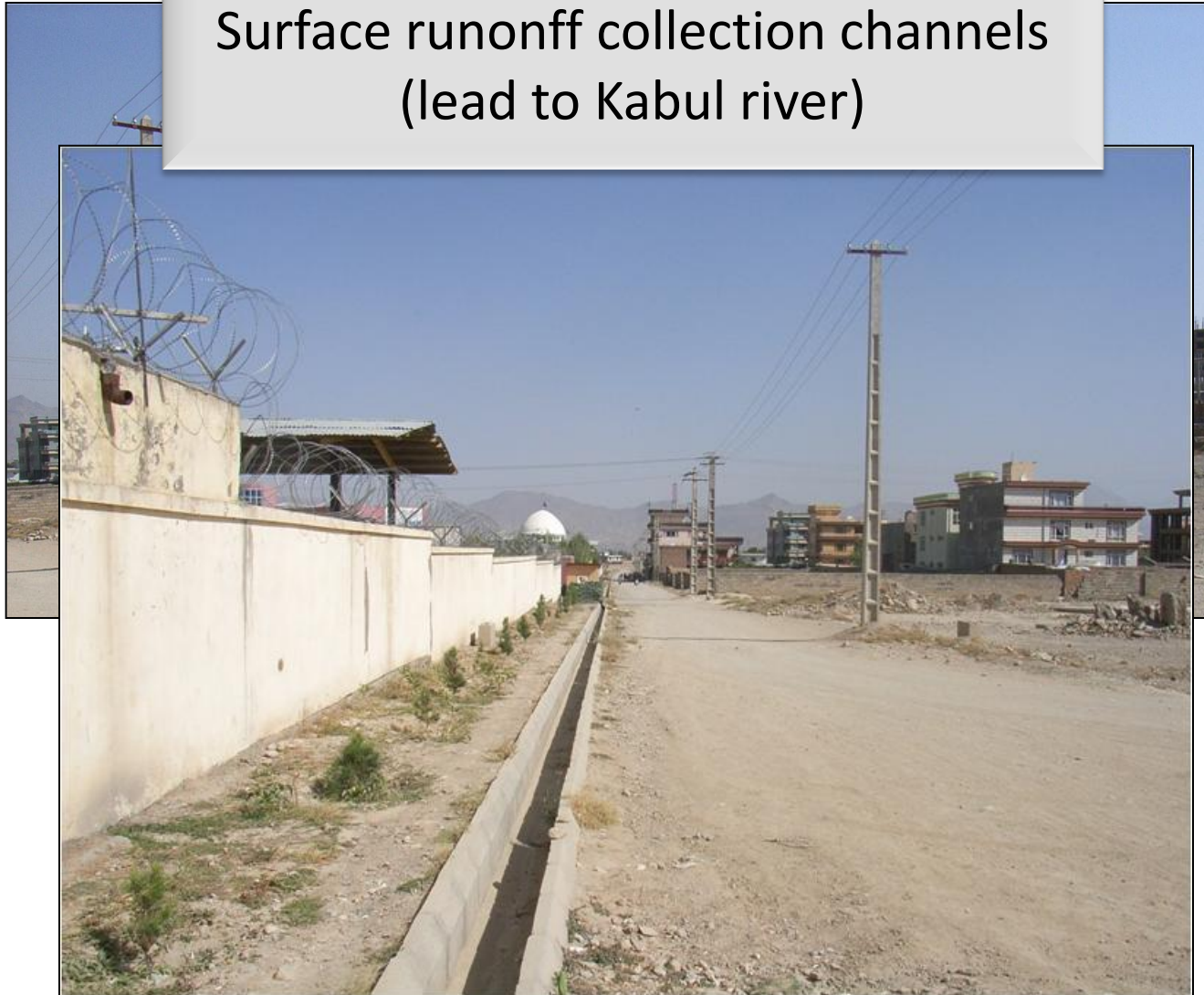


An overflowing underground greywater reservoir in the old city of Herat



Localised sewerage and treatment system Omed-e-Sabz Township, Kabul

Surface runoff collection channels
(lead to Kabul river)



Localised sewerage and treatment system Omed-e-Sabz Township, Kabul

Connected to localised sewerage
network and treatment plant
(biological treatment)



What are the key elements in the policy review process?

1. Compliance with existing Legal Framework and National Priorities

- Environment Law (2007)
 - Precautionary principle
 - Polluter pays principle
- Water Law (2009)
 - Integrated Water Resources Management approach
- Afghanistan National Development Strategy
 - National Priority Programs

What are the key elements in the policy review process?

2. Stakeholder involvement

- Horizontally-aligned stakeholders
 - Other ministries and government bodies having linkages to urban wastewater sector in consideration of complete wastewater flow chain and sustainability indicators
- Vertically-aligned stakeholders
 - Technical departments and municipalities at provincial level

What are the key elements in the policy review process?

3. Geographical and sector scope (decided via horizontally-aligned stakeholder workshop)

- Geographical scope
 - Urban and peri-urban areas
- Sector scope
 - Complete wastewater flow chain from collection to disposal or reuse
 - Types of wastewater: surface runoff, domestic mixed sewage, domestic source-separated wastewater (greywater, blackwater, yellow water, excreta), industrial wastewater

What are the key elements in the policy review process?

4. Sustainability

(decided via horizontally-aligned stakeholder workshop)

- Criteria of sustainability recommended by Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)
 - Health and hygiene
 - Environment and natural resources
 - Technology and operation
 - Financial and economic aspects
 - Socio-cultural and institutional aspects

Thank you!

