



**Water, Engineering  
and Development Centre**

**Faecal sludge management in  
Accra, Ghana:  
problems facing urban provision**

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# Overview

- **Sanitation and the FSM chain, Accra**
- **Costs to households**
  - official / illegal services
- **Stakeholder interactions**
  - current arrangement
  - room for improvement
- **Role for the public sector**
- **Lessons**



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CENFEED, Ghana

# Sanitation in Accra

Sanitation option	Larbi (2006)	Muller (1997)	AMA survey (2002)
Public toilets (aqua-privies, KVIPs, some WCs)		20%	25%
Household latrines (sewered or septic tank)	35%	75%	40%
Household bucket ( <i>pan</i> ) latrines	15%	5%	20%
Household pit latrines	5%	-	5%
Other means	5%	-	10%

**Estimated 30,000 bucket latrines in use**



# FSM chain in Accra – 1

## Emptying

- Bucket (pan) latrine *contractors*
- Bucket (pan) latrine *illegal operators*

## Initial transport

- Dung beetles
- Manual



# FSM chain in Accra – 2

## Initial disposal

- **Transfer stations**
- **Local environment**

Wall to contain overflowed faecal sludge

Lid lifted to put faecal sludge in the tank

Vent pipe to release odours

Discharge point with connection to vacuum tanker

Chain & lock to deter illegal emptying



# FSM chain in Accra – 3

## Secondary transport

- Tankers

## Treatment

- Non-existent!

## Secondary disposal

- Beach
- WSPs (non-functioning)



# Cost to households

**Table 1. Key charges for emptying sanitation facilities in Accra (2007)**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Cost (Ghana Cedis) per trip</b>
7,000 litre vacuum tanker emptying a pit/UHT	46 (US\$ 50)
7,000 litre vacuum tanker emptying a domestic septic tank	52 (US\$ 57)
Emptying a bucket latrine (fixed monthly fee)	<b>10 (per month) (US\$ 11)</b>
Disposal charge for vacuum tankers at tipping point	12 (US\$ 13)
<b>Source: Waste Management Department records, 2007</b>	

- **Way above recommended 0.5% of household income**
- **Compare with approx. 20 Ghana Cedis per month on medical care / health expenses**



# Cost to households

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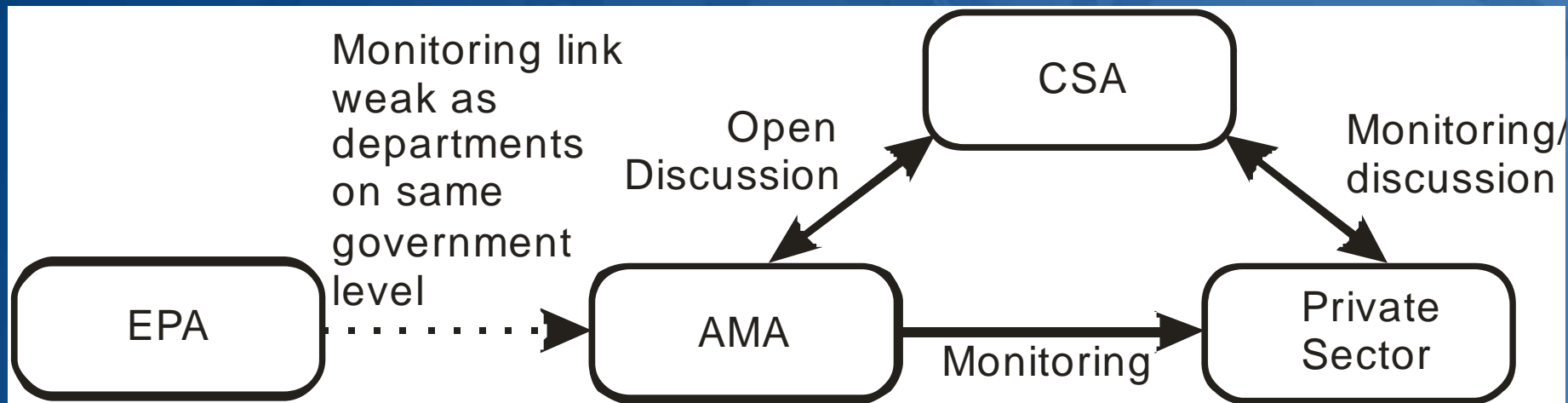
- ***Informal / illegal operators under-cut official operations***
  - Impacts on standard of services and local environment
- **Break-down between domains of household and district / city**



# Stakeholders

Households and emptiers, plus:

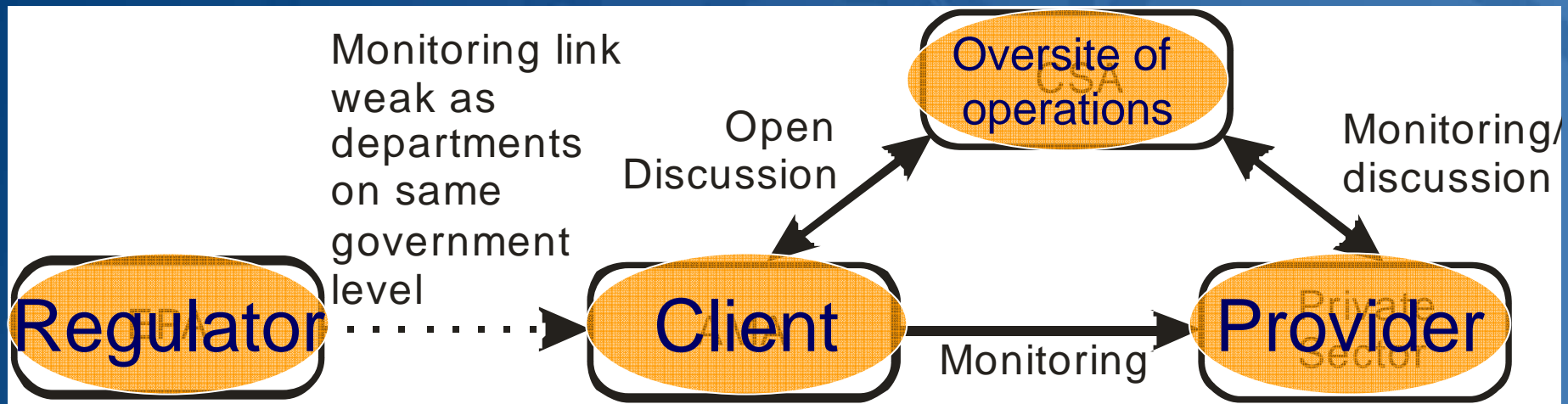
- Cesspool Services Association
- Waste Management Department (of Accra Municipal Assembly)
- Central Government (EPA)



# Stakeholders & interactions

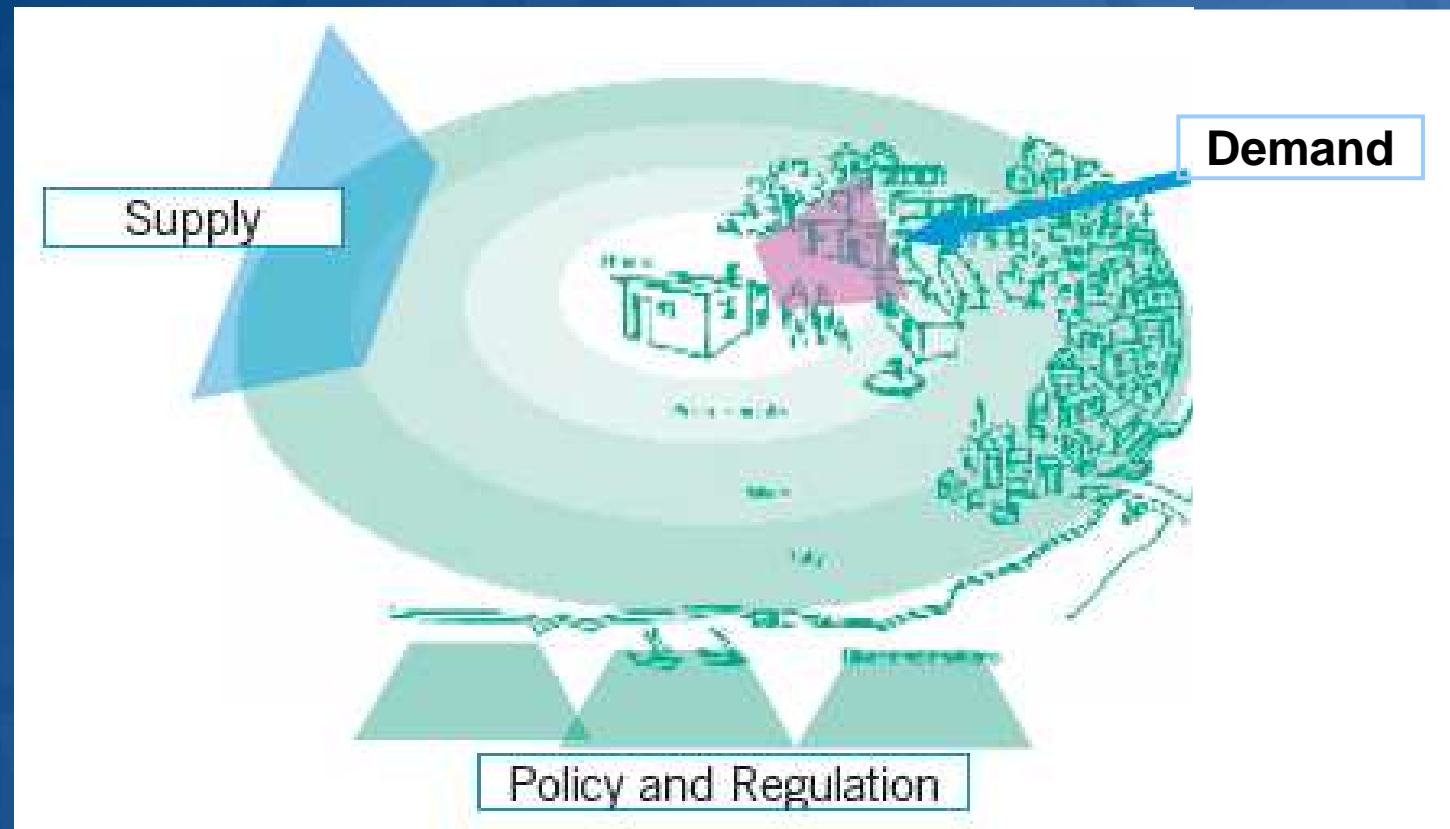
Appropriate allocation of roles is lacking

- Transfer stations:
  - public ownership / private operation
  - informal sector use, with no recognition
- Insufficient capacity to regulate



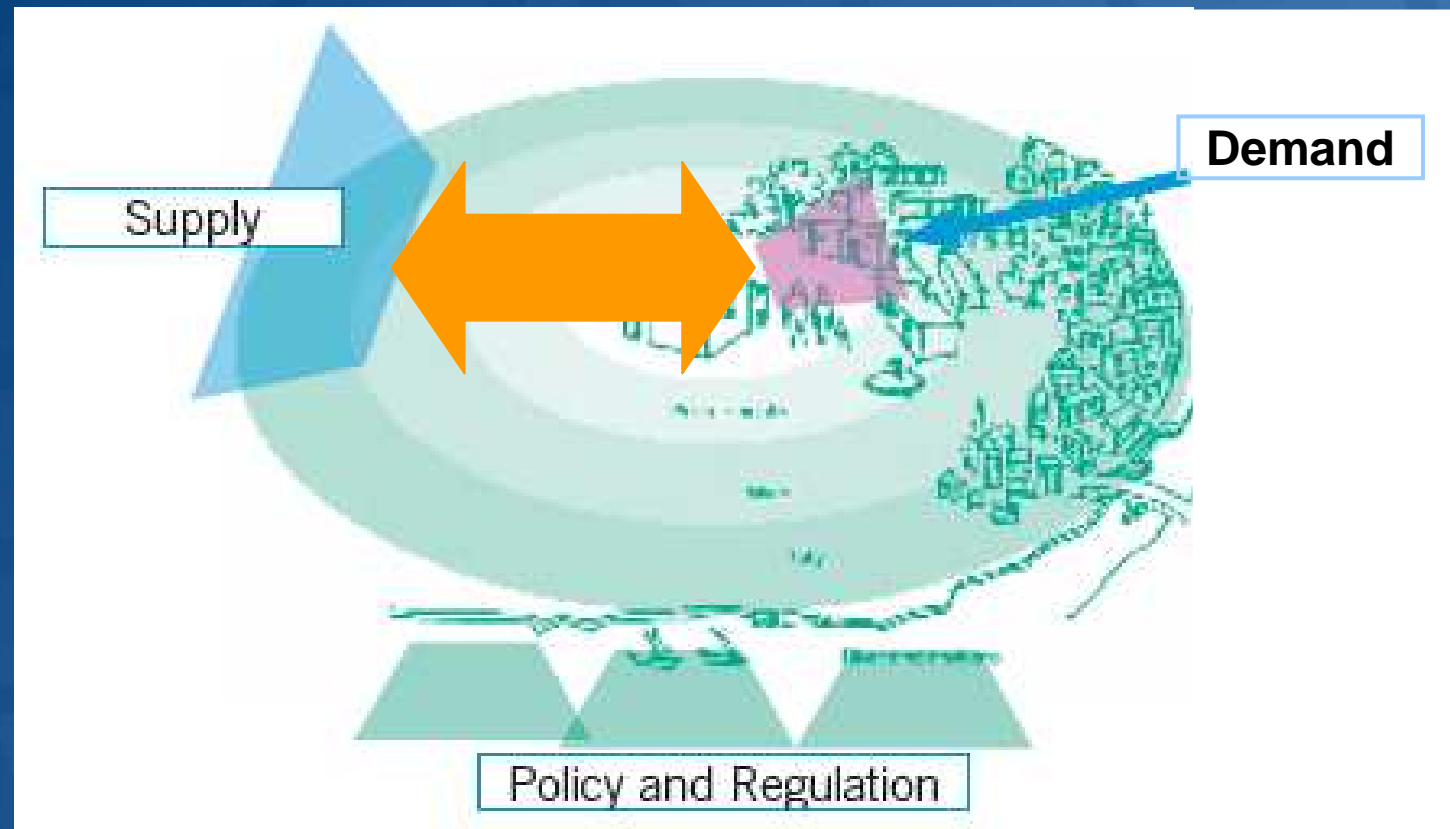
# Lessons from the sector

- Households play a key role in deciding expenditure, priorities, preferences, etc.



# Lessons from the sector

- Huge gap between h/h demand and official supply
  - role for intermediary / structures to fill





# Lessons from solid waste

- At **household** level: FSM and SWM are different
- At **transfer** point: many similarities
- At **planning** level: links & differences

## Sharing lessons:

- roles & arrangements
- engagement & dialogue



# An improvement?

Platform for dialogue  
& representation of  
CBOs, households  
& informal sector

