

Sustainable Sanitation



Sustainable Sanitation – a key to achieve the SDGs

Background

Commissioned by	BMZ
Volume	4 Million Euro
Duration (current phase)	11/2018-10/2021
Regional Focus	Global

Human excreta and wastewater can provide a safe fertiliser to help build a **world without hunger**, they can provide water for reuse in **agriculture** and **water stressed cities** and create **energy for a circular economy**. On the other side, they do pollute water and settlements, spread deadly pathogens and emit greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Solving this sanitation crisis is therefore a challenge and opportunity that can contribute to multiple goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, including SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equity), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate).

Since 2001, BMZ has commissioned the GIZ sustainable sanitation programme with the aim to break the taboo around sanitation, to disseminate innovative solutions for scaling-up sanitation and to progress the implementation of the **BMZ water strategy**.

Impacts and achievements

Since its beginning, the **circular economy approach** is a foundation of the programme's conceptual work, with a focus on minimising the use of resource inputs by closing the loop and redefining waste as a resource. The importance of safe management of excreta and wastewater, which includes proper containment, emptying, transport, treatment and disposal/re-use, (in contrast to the mere construction of latrines) has been another important corner stone of the programme's work. This includes

faecal sludge management (FSM), decentralized wastewater treatment and on-site sanitation, which are for most urban dwellers in low-income areas the prevailing sanitation options. Today, both the circular economy model and the **sanitation service chain** model are internationally recognized and mainstreamed in the discourse. Safe management of excreta and wastewater and aspects of reuse-oriented sanitation were also included in the SDG 6 through initiatives of the programme.

In its current phase, the programme puts a focus on urban sanitation including **financing solutions** to leave no one behind and ideas to enhance **job creation**. The programme supports Skill's Challenges – a competition among pit latrine emptiers with the aim to instill a sense of recognition, motivation and empowerment in competitors and to underline the need for more professionals in the field.

Furthermore, the programme focuses on **climate change** and develops ideas for **climate resilience** sanitation and supports research to better understand the greenhouse gas emissions of on-site sanitation.



Pit Emptiers during a Skill's Challenge in Zambia.

In 2008, the programme co-founded the **Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)** – an international network for sustainable sanitation practitioners, whose secretariat is hosted by the programme. SuSanA has grown to over 11,000

members and 350 partner organisations globally. In addition to its function as a knowledge sharing and learning platform, the network acts as a Think Tank that accelerates innovations and campaigns for better sanitation at the political level. As an inclusive platform, SuSanA has been fundamental for improved sector coordination.



From left to right: Thilo Panzerbieter (German Toilet Organisation), Bella Monse (GIZ) and Norbert Barthle (Parliamentary State Secretary to BMZ) showcasing the WASHaLot 3.0 – a group handwashing facility developed by GIZ/Fit for School.

In cooperation with various development projects (e.g. in India, Uganda, Zambia, Afghanistan), the programme has gathered experiences in implementing innovative, **gender-sensitive solutions** for sustainable sanitation. These are institutionalised at ministry and authority level in the partner countries such as the management of **WASH in Schools**, which is anchored in national education systems. The programme has worked closely together with GIZ’s Regional Fit for School Programme in Asia and supports the global roll-out of the “Fit for School” approach by offering expertise to bilateral and global programmes (WASH, education, and health) predominantly on the African continent.. More than **14.9 million** children have been directly reached by the Fit for School programme and thus benefit from improved WASH conditions in schools.

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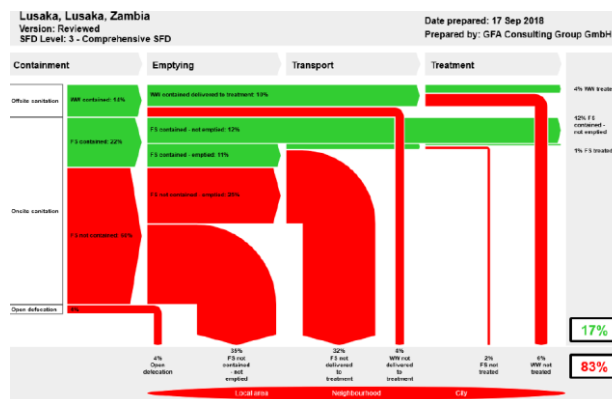
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In its current phase, the programme continues supporting the implementation of the Fit for School approach including the development of **digital applications** such as an Android app for operation & maintenance of WASH facilities in Schools “O&M – Calculate the Cost”, group handwashing facilities such as the low-cost and water-saving WASHaLot 3.0 and new concepts in the area of **menstrual health and hygiene**.



The green flows in the SFD graphic show where excreta and wastewater is managed safely. Red flows show where humans and environment are at risk to be in contact with untreated faecal matter and wastewater. This is an example from Lusaka, Zambia.

Since 2014, the programme has spearheaded the development and dissemination of the **Shit Flow Diagrams** (SFDs), an easy-to-use advocacy tool, that shows how excreta and wastewater is managed along the sanitation chain within a city. The aim of this is to prevent untreated sewage and faeces from contaminating the environment and thus contribute to the protection of water. Between 2014 and 2019, more than 100 cities in Africa, Asia and South America have created a SFD. This improved the planning framework for urban sanitation service for about **100 million people**. An SFD from India, developed by the programme, was used by Bill Gates and the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss solutions for better sanitation in India.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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