



SFD Lite Report

Meherpur Municipality Bangladesh

This SFD Lite Report was prepared by
CWIS-FSM Support Cell, DPHE

Date of production/ last update: 12/01/2022

1 The SFD Graphic

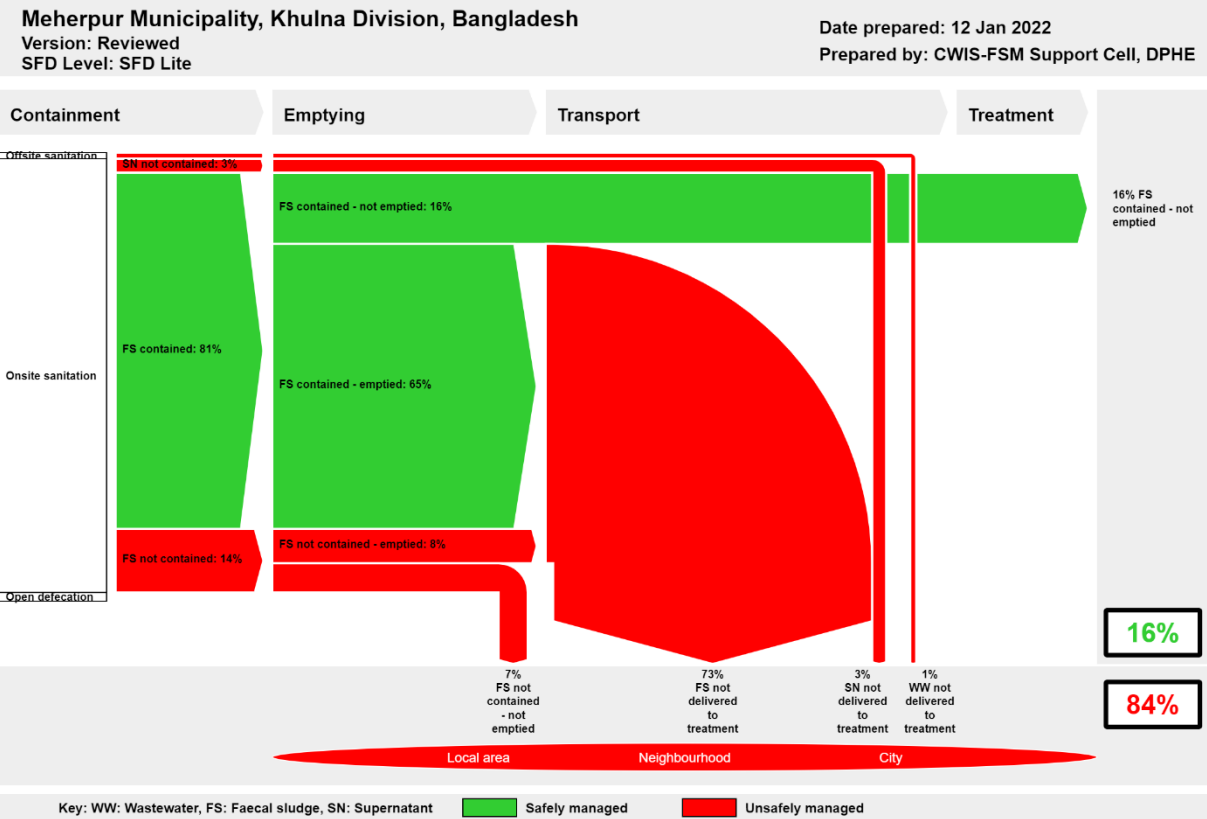


Figure 1: SFD Graphic for Meherpur municipality.

2 SFD Lite information

Produced by:

- Dr. Abdullah Al-Muyeed, Chief Operating Officer, CWIS-FSM Support Cell, Shishir Kumar Biswas, Project Director, *Feasibility for Implementing of Solid Waste and Faecal Sludge Management System in 53 District Level Municipalities and 8 City Corporations*, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and Suman Kanti Nath, Technical Expert, CWIS-FSM Support Cell, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Bangladesh.
- We also acknowledge the support of the Centre for Science and Environment, India for the promotion of SFD in Bangladesh.

Collaborating partners:

- DevCon, Tiller, and Meherpur municipality played vital roles in collecting and sharing data, and producing this SFD graphic and SFD lite report.

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3 General city information

Meherpur, a city of southwestern Bangladesh and the district headquarter of Meherpur district is situated in Khulna Division, Bangladesh (Figure 2). Meherpur Town was established in the early sixteenth century. Meherpur Municipality is one of the oldest municipalities in Bangladesh which was established in 1859. The municipality town stands on the turbulently flown Bhairab River. Meherpur is one of the 53 municipalities in the country.

Table 1: City profile (Source: KII with the Secretary, Meherpur municipality).

Population parameters	
Estimated population, 2020	51,984
Households, 2020	12025
Area, sq. km	15.90
Total roads, km	108.15
Total drains, km	38.22



Figure 2: Meherpur municipality location map (BBS/ GIS report 2017).

According to the population census in 2011 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the Meherpur population was 43,133. The present population growth rate in Meherpur is 1.02% per year. Considering 10% floating population, such as farmers and traders, comes to the city every day, the present (2020) population is estimated to be around 51,984.

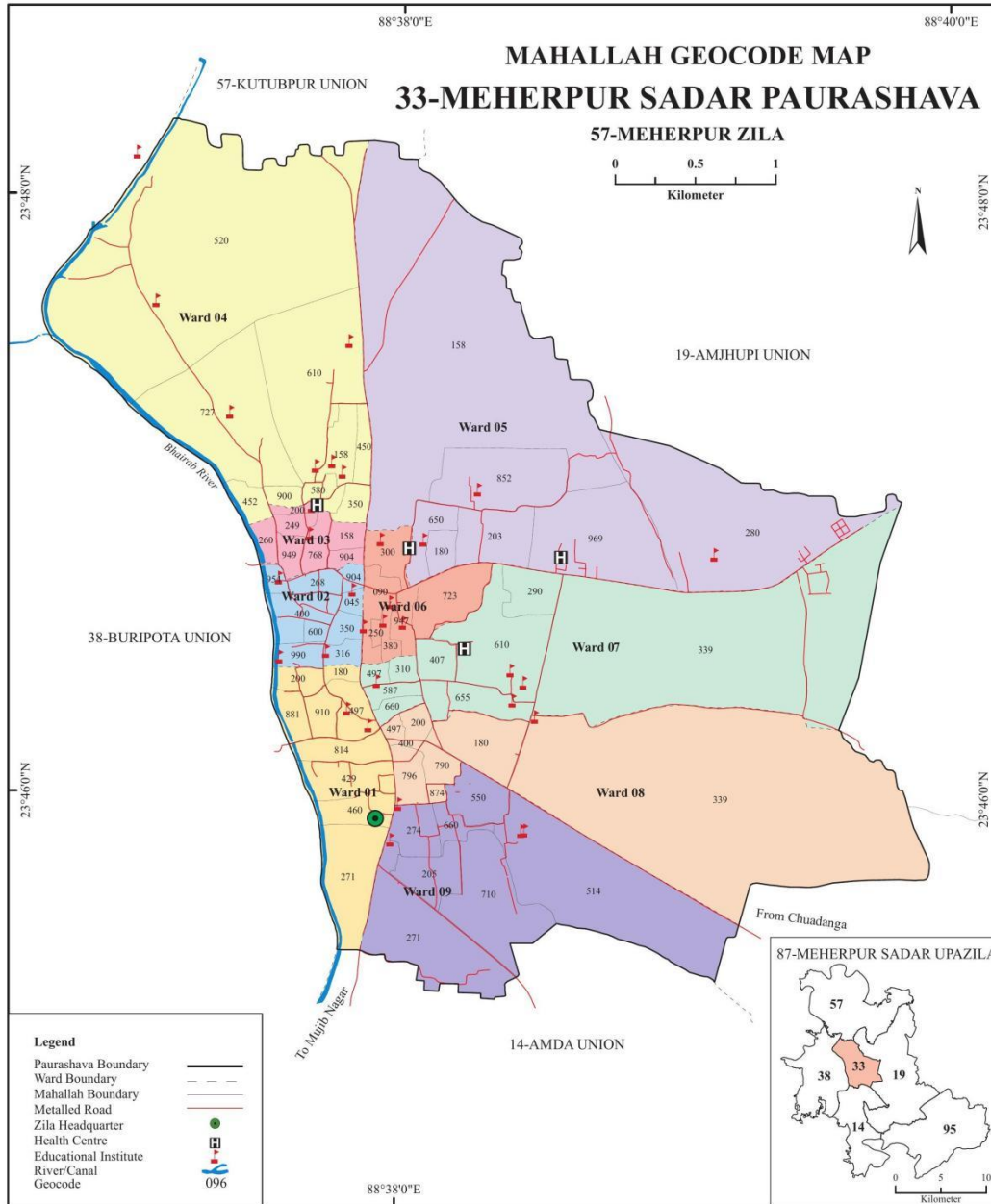


Figure 3: Meherpur municipality ward boundary map (BBS/ GIS report 2017).

The Municipality covers an area of 15.09 square kilometres. At present the municipality has 108.15 km of roads out of which 44.45 km is bituminous carpeting road, 14.91 km is Herring-Bone-Bond (HBB) Road, 10.22 km is Macadam road, 20.90 km is Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) road and 17.67 km is earthen road. The municipality has 38.22 km of drain which consists of 15.22 km of Cement Concrete (CC) drains and 23 km earthen drains (Table 1)¹.

¹ Source: 'At a Glance: Meherpur Municipality', by municipal office

The geographical coordinates of Meherpur are 23.8052° N, 88.6724° E². In the context of Bangladesh, the municipality area is made of highland and medium highland. The elevation of land varies from 7 to more than 21 m. The south-east part of the Municipality is mainly high land and the rest of the area is medium high land.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) (1981-2017)³, the Municipality area is experiencing a tropical monsoon climate with hot summer and cool dry winter. There is no climatological station within the Municipality. The closest meteorological station of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) is located in Chuadanga. Data of mean monthly and annual rainfall have been collected from Chuadanga Station for the period 1981-2017. The maximum mean temperature observed is 26.4 - 36.3°C, with the minimum temperatures found to be between 12.5 - 26.2°C. The annual average rainfall is about 1,497 mm according to BMD (1981-2017).

Bhairab River passes through the western part of the Municipality and there are two *Khals* namely Jiyalar Khal and Khal adjacent to Kajla River which perform the primary role of draining surface run-off in the municipality area. According to the flood zoning map of Bangladesh, the Municipality is in a flood-free zone (in the last 12 years no flooding event happened). However, the drainage network of the city is not adequate⁴.

The ward boundary map and the population density in the 9 wards of the city are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The density is high in the south-western part of the Municipality, ranging from about 9,000 to 11,400 per sq km. The population density in the North and Eastern part is lower, ranging from 6,00 to 1,500 per sq km⁵.

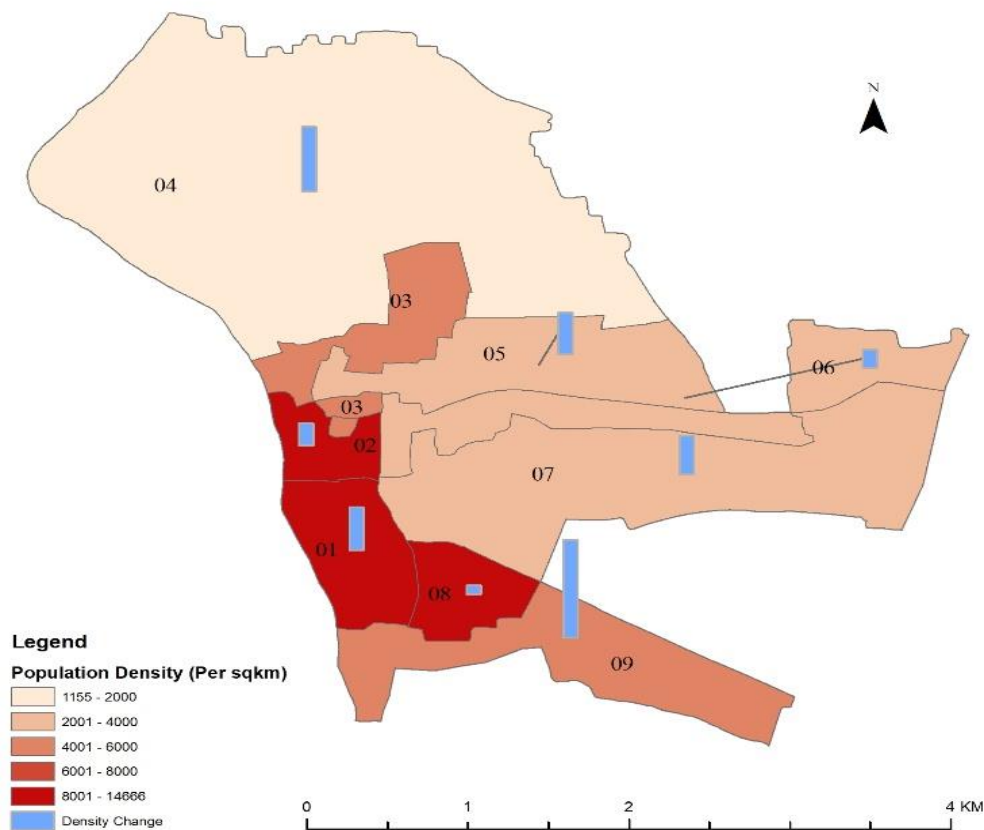


Figure 4: Population density in different wards of Meherpur municipality.

² Source: <https://www.gps-latitude-longitude.com/gps-coordinates>

³ <http://bmd.gov.bd/p/Rainfall-Situation-202>

⁴ KII and field visit during Baseline survey 2020

⁵ KII and field visit during Baseline survey 2020

4 Service outcomes

Meherpur Municipality, Meherpur, Bangladesh, 12 Jan 2022. SFD Level: SFD Lite

Population: 51984

Proportion of tanks: septic tanks: 74%, fully lined tanks: 0%, lined, open bottom tanks: 100%

Containment								
System type	Population	WW transport	WW treatment	FS emptying	FS transport	FS treatment	SN transport	SN treatment
	Pop	W4c	W5c	F3	F4	F5	S4e	S5e
System label and description	Proportion of population using this type of system (p)	Proportion of wastewater in open sewer or storm drain system, which is delivered to treatment plants	Proportion of wastewater delivered to treatment plants, which is treated	Proportion of this type of system from which faecal sludge is emptied	Proportion of faecal sludge emptied, which is delivered to treatment plants	Proportion of faecal sludge delivered to treatment plants, which is treated	Proportion of supernatant in open drain or storm sewer system, which is delivered to treatment plants	Proportion of supernatant in open drain or storm sewer system that is delivered to treatment plants, which is treated
T1A1C6 Toilet discharges directly to open drain or storm sewer	1.4	0.0	0.0					
T1A2C5 Septic tank connected to soak pit	5.4			71.0	0.0	0.0		
T1A2C6 Septic tank connected to open drain or storm sewer	12.2			60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
T1A2C7 Septic tank connected to open water body	2.0			60.0	0.0	0.0		
T1A2C8 Septic tank connected to open ground	3.2			60.0	0.0	0.0		
T1A2C9 Septic tank connected to 'don't know where'	0.2			60.0	0.0	0.0		
T1A4C10 Lined tank with impermeable walls and open bottom, no outlet or overflow	10.0			16.0	0.0	0.0		
T1A5C10 Lined pit with semi-permeable walls and open bottom, no outlet or overflow	62.8			96.0	0.0	0.0		
T1A6C10 Unlined pit, no outlet or overflow	2.7			0.0	0.0	0.0		

Table 2: SFD Matrix for Meherpur municipality.

The outcome of the SFD graphic shows that only sixteen percent (16%) of the excreta flow is classified as safely managed, and the remaining eighty-four (84%) percent is classified as unsafely managed (Figure 1). The unsafely managed excreta originate from wastewater not delivered to treatment (1%), Faecal Sludge (FS) emptied but not delivered to treatment (73%), FS not contained - not emptied (7%) and 3% of supernatant not delivered to treatment. The safely managed excreta originate from FS contained - not emptied (16%).

The percentages presented in Table 2 and discussed in the next section are based on data collected through household (HH) surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (Figure 5 and Figure 9).

Overview on technologies and methods used for different sanitation systems through the sanitation service chain is as follows:

4.1 Offsite Systems

The city does not have a dedicated sewerage system. However, during field observation and HH survey, it was found that there are some certain areas where toilets are directly connected to open drains. Similarly, a portion of septic tanks is directly connected to open drains or storm sewer. Therefore, T1A1C6 system is considered as 1.4% of the total population of the city to generate the SFD graphic. Similarly, the T1A2C6 system is considered 12.2% of the total population of the city to generate the SFD graphic. In the absence of a sewerage system, the faecal sludge in T1A1C6 and the supernatant in T1A2C6 are directly discharged untreated into the river or the environment.

4.2 On-site Sanitation Systems



Figure 5: Household survey and consultations. Left: Household survey. Right: Consultation meeting. (Source: Feasibility study 2020-21/DPHE).

Containment: Almost all the households (98.68%) in the city have their latrine which is connected to single pits, twin pits, septic tanks, or discharged directly into the environment (e.g., open drain or storm sewer). The rest of the households use community latrines (1.32%). From a household survey, it was found that 23.1% of the city population uses septic tanks as the containment system, 62.8% of the toilets have single pit systems, and 10.0% of people use double pits in the city. About 2.7% of people have an unlined pit and 1.4% do not have any type of containment and discharges directly to the environment (KII, FGDs, HH survey, 2020).

According to the type of connectivity and features of containment technologies, the discharging points of the toilets are categorized as: 5.4% of the population uses septic tanks connected to soak pits (T1A2C5), 12.2% of the population uses septic tanks connected to open drain (T1A2C6), 2.0% of the population uses septic tanks connected to water bodies (T1A2C7), 3.2% of the population uses septic tanks connected to open ground (T1A2C8), 0.2% of the population uses septic tanks connected to 'don't know where' (T1A2C9), 10.0% of the population uses lined tanks with impermeable walls and open bottom, no outlet or overflow (T1A4C10), 62.8% of the population relies on the lined pit with semi-permeable walls and open bottom, no outlet or overflow (T1A5C10). Nearly, 2.7% of the population uses the unlined pit with no outlet no overflow (T1A6C10) (KII, FGDs, HH survey, 2020). Thus, at the containment stage, the city's excreta of only 80.9% of the population are contained. Figure 6 shows pictures of these technologies in use.



Figure 6: Containment technologies and their connections in Meherpur (Source: Feasibility study 2020-21/DPHE).

Groundwater Pollution: The groundwater level below the ground surface is 5-6 m. The most common drinking water production technology is a borehole with a hand pump or motorized pump. 23.5% of the households use their own tube well fitted with electric motor and 43% use their own hand pump tube well. 33.5% of households are supplied with piped water.

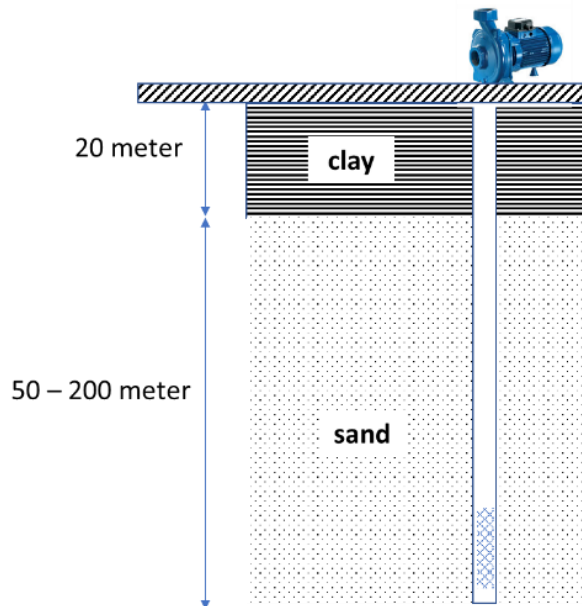


Figure 7: Soil profile Meherpur city and location of tube well screen.

Lateral separation between sanitation facilities and water sources varies from one area to another. The main source of drinking water is tube well. Tube wells of different sizes and depths are generally used to pump water from the confined aquifers. During the household visit and FGDs, it was found that less than 25% of sanitation facilities are located within 10 metres from the groundwater source. Besides, due to the geographical situation, sanitation facilities are not located uphill of the groundwater sources. According to a survey report on 'Hydrogeological screening, slug test and geophysical logging on observation well units', conducted by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), drinking water is collected from the confined aquifer (25 m – 200 m) through pumps (Figure 7). Therefore, a low risk of groundwater contamination is considered in the city.

Emptying: Households relying on septic tanks have to arrange themselves for emptying of the septic tank. It was observed from the baseline survey that most of the septic tanks have been constructed in the last 4-6 years (Figure 8). According to the survey from 2020, the frequency of emptying of septic tanks or covered pits varies from 1 to 10 years depending upon the size, uses, etc.

However, about 71% of the septic tanks, connected to the soak pit are emptied within 2-5 years. About 60% of the septic tanks connected to open drains, open ground, water bodies or 'don't know where' are emptied within 2-5 years. Almost 96% of single pit latrines and 16% of the double pit latrines are emptied within 1-2 years. Besides the above information, it was also revealed during the discussion in FGDs and household visits, that the demand for desludging septic tanks would increase shortly. Desludging of the septic tanks or pits is mostly (64%) done by private sweepers. Only in a few households, desludging is done by municipal sweepers (31%) and family members (5%). Around 69% of this withdrawal is done manually using a bucket and rope. A substantial number (30%) use mechanical vacuum trucks and electric pumps. The manual method has high risks for the health and safety of the workers. These reflect the absence of safe and improved technologies for sludge emptying. The conservancy department has one mechanical vacuum truck, and they provide emptying service⁶.

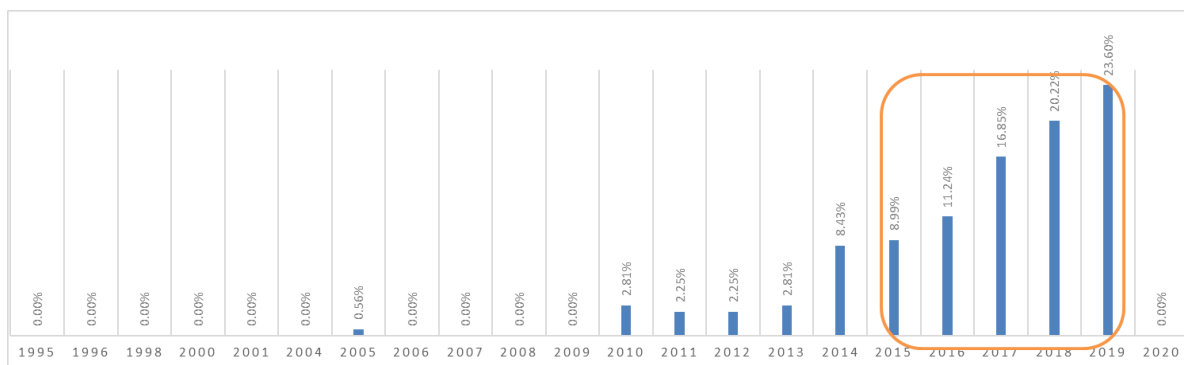


Figure 8: Year of septic tanks construction.

Transportation: The sludge withdrawn from the septic tanks and latrine pits by the cleaners is disposed of in various places. Based on the survey from 2020, it was observed that about 62% of the respondents who use any kind of containment system, informed that faecal sludge (sludge from the septic tank or covered pit latrines) is disposed of in a dug hole covered with soil away from the house. Besides, the sludge disposed into the canal and river and drain is 4%, whereas 34% of respondents informed that sludge is carried away by a vacuum truck. Since there are no treatment facilities in the town, the vacuum truck also discharges the sludge to ditches, drains, water bodies or open ground.

Treatment/Disposal: Presently, there is a solid waste treatment plant. The faecal sludge treatment plant is under construction.

4.3 Open Defecation:

From HH surveys, KIs and FGDs, it was found that 100% of citizens use any kind of toilet in the Municipality. Thus, from the sanitation point of view, the town is considered an open defecation-free town.

⁶ In the last few years, mechanical vacuum trucks have been provided to several municipal authorities from different government and non-government sources. But municipal authorities have shortage of expert manpower and service delivery mechanism to operate the vehicles. Recent years, the situation is improving. Institutional Regulatory Framework (IRF) and National Action Plan (NAP) have been approved by government. Different service delivery and business models have been developed in few cities. Capacity building program of local government institutions are conducting by govt. institutions and development partners. A significant improvement in FSM will be found within few years.

5 Data and assumptions

The baseline survey conducted in October 2020 contains detailed data on different stages of the sanitation value chain. The SFD matrix is generated from these data, collected during sample household surveys, along with informal interviews, open-ended consultations, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with the municipality officials, town level coordination committee, households, social workers, business persons, pit emptiers and the citizens including women in all the wards of the municipality. The SFD matrix was generated from these data. Finally, data from all these sources were triangulated to produce the SFD matrix, the SFD graphic and the SFD lite report.

The last census was carried out about 10 years ago. So, the actual population, household, and sanitation data are not updated yet. Most of the households with septic tanks do not know the actual type, size, and design desludging periods. Also, a large number of pit users are unaware of the emptying events and frequency of their pit emptying. Due to all these data gaps, some assumptions have been made to produce the SFD graphic. These assumptions were shared with key informants at the municipality and accepted by them. Following assumptions were made for developing the SFD graphic for Meherpur municipality:

- ✓ The proportion of FS in septic tanks, fully line tanks, and line, open bottom tanks are considered 74%, 0%, and 100% respectively as per the guidance given in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) website.
- ✓ According to the population census in 2011 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the Meherpur population was 43,133. The present population growth rate in Meherpur is 1.02% per year. Considering 10% floating population, such as farmers and traders, comes to the city every day, the present (2020) population is estimated to be around 51,984.
- ✓ There are around 10.0% of twin pit latrines in the containment system. So, it is assumed that all these twin pit containment technologies are defined as lined tanks with impermeable walls and open bottom, no outlet or overflow (system T1A4C10, 10.0%). Based on the household survey, variable F3 for system T1A4C10 is set to 16%.
- ✓ There are around 62.8% of single pit latrines in the containment systems. So, it is assumed that all these single pit containment technologies are defined as lined pits with semi-permeable walls and open bottom, no outlet or overflow (system T1A5C10, 62.8%). All of the single pit latrines are found to be emptied within 1-2 years. Based on the household survey, variable F3 for system T1A5C10 is set to 96%.
- ✓ 5.4% of septic tanks are connected to soak pits (system T1A2C5). They are well-constructed as per the field visit observation. The risk of groundwater contamination was deemed low, therefore that option was selected in the SFD Matrix. Around 71% of HHs have emptied their septic tank with a soak pit with a desludging frequency of 2-5 years. Based on the household survey, variable F3 for system T1A2C5 is set to 71%.
- ✓ There are 17.6% of septic tanks connected to the open drain, open ground, water bodies and 'don't know where', which are emptied within 2-5 years. Based on the household survey, variable F3 for systems T1A2C6, T1A2C7, T1A2C8 and T1A2C9 is set to 60%.
- ✓ 2.7% of containments are found as unlined pits with no outlet or overflow (T1A6C10). These systems are never emptied (variable F3 set to 0% and hence, variables F4 and F5 are also both set to 0%).
- ✓ Wastewater in T1A1C6 and supernatant in T1A2C6 are directly discharged into the river or the environment untreated. Therefore, variables W4c, W5c, S4e and S5e are set to 0%.
- ✓ Since there are no operational wastewater or faecal sludge treatment plant in the town and all the collected FS is disposed untreated into the environment, variables F4 and F5 for all systems are considered to be 0%.

6 List of Sources

Reports, literature and website

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2011.
- Population and Housing Census, 2011.
- Baseline Survey of the project “Feasibility for Implementing of Solid Waste and Faecal Sludge Management System in 53 District Level Municipalities and 8 City Corporations”, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Dhaka, Bangladesh. (December 2020)
- Report on ‘Hydrogeological Screening, Slug Test And Geophysical Logging on Observation Well Units’ under *Bangladesh Rural Water Supply And Sanitation Project (BRWSSP)*, Arsenic Management Division, Department Of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) (March 2017)
- MANAGING MUNICIPAL WASTE: APPLICATION OF SPATIAL TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES Showmitra Kumar Sarkar* and Md. Esraz-Ul-Zannat; Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Bangladesh; *Journal of Engineering Science* 10(1), 2019, 113-122
- The revised ‘National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2021’
- ‘At a Glance: Meherpur Municipality’, by municipal office
- <https://www.gps-latitude-longitude.com/gps-coordinates><http://bmd.gov.bd/p/Rainfall-Situation-202>



Figure 9: Left: KIIs with different stakeholders. Right: Focus Group Discussions.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) from September 2020 to March 2021

- KII with Mayor, Meherpur Municipality.
- KII with Secretary, Meherpur Municipality.
- KII with Conservancy Inspector, Meherpur Municipality
- KII with Councilor, Meherpur Municipality.
- Facilitators: Md. Mynul Islam Hemel, Field Coordinator, Tiller.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) from September 2020 to March 2021

- A group of representatives from the Bazar Committee.
- Sweepers and waste collectors.
- A group of representatives from Educational Institutions.
- Masons Association (septic tank builders).

Additional information

- This report was compiled as part of the Baseline Survey of the project, ***“Feasibility for Implementing of Solid Waste and Faecal Sludge Management System in 53 District Level Municipalities and 8 City Corporations”***, (December 2020).
- The project was implemented under the supervision of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE). In-depth information and data were collected for the towns which included project documents, master plans and baseline reports from the municipality and national levels, statistical data like population and household income expenditure, GIS data and other geospatial data and satellite images, and open street maps (OSM).
- The Field Survey of the project was conducted from 01 January 2020 to 24 March 2020 and from 04 July 2020 to 30 November 2020. The field survey includes household surveys, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and physical feature surveys. A central server has been established to monitor FSM and SWM databases under the project. The results of the study are shared with the municipal authority and are considered as a basis for preparing investment projects by the government and development partners, and sustainable plans for operating and maintaining the systems by the municipal authorities.
- We would like to thank Mr. Md. Mahfuzzur Rahman Riton, Mayor, Meherpur Municipality, Mr. Tafiqul Alam, Secretary, Meherpur Municipality; Mr. Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, Executive Engineer, Meherpur Municipality for providing all the required primary and secondary data and cooperating for Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) & Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs). This report would not have been possible to produce without the constant support of Mr. Md. Mahfuzzur Rahman Riton, Mayor, Meherpur Municipality, who helped in conducting sample surveys and FGDs in the field.

Meherpur Municipality, Bangladesh, 2022

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