Session 5: Faecal sludge Treatment Systems: Planning, technology, performance, economics and operations

Informed choice processes to support infrastructure investment decision-making

April 25 - 27, 2023
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• Why do we end up with white elephant FSTPs?
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An environmental health emergency is staring us in the face.

Discussions on urban sanitation investments are very treatment plant centred.

If NOT acted now ...
Why do we end up with white elephant FSTPs?

- Parachuting of technologies (*blind replications*)
- Exclusion of relevant stakeholders during project initiation (*centralised, top down*)
- Unrealistic, impractical, or incomplete operation and maintenance plans (*FSM myths*)
- Unclear or limited service and/or business models (*over design, Non city-wide perception*)

https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/white-elephants-that-gulp-public-money-editorial/172-27658
Timeline journey (2017-2023)

1 Year

Data

Making a strong evidence-based case
- Rapid technical assessments
- Faecal sludge characterisation
- Sanitation mapping

Decision making

Making an informed choice
- Technical and decision-making task forces
- Site exposure visits
- Sensitisation of available options
- Assessment of ranking options

Designs and land acquisition

Dreaming and location
- Preliminary and detailed designs (multiple phases)
- Research and detailed economic case
- Land surveying and social acceptance
- Roles and responsibilities matrix

Construction

From vision to action
- Contractor-Consultant-Client
- Launch and visibility

Operation & maintenance

Sustainability and upgrading
- Theoretical and practical capacity building
- Dedicated O&M team and budget
- Performance monitoring
- Short, medium, and long-term plans

Continue
A critical broadening of FS treatment conversations, bringing multiple actors together to collectively identify interventions best suited to improve service delivery. Through the process that interrogates options based on the transparent criteria, decision-makers had been able to arrive at suitable and evidence-based options. A process proven to be invaluable in building ownership over final decisions and improving understanding about the range of non-sewered treatment options available and the potential for faecal sludge re-use.
Lesson 2: Systems strengthening

Strong service delivery systems that engage multiple stakeholders are better able to withstand shocks (new council continues)

As subnational institutions and service providers become more effective and accountable, they attract investment

investments in systems’ strengthening are translating into improved access and use of services on the ground.
Thank you!

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