



SFD Promotion Initiative - Consortium Partners

sustainable sanitation alliance

giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

On behalf of
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

wsp
water & power solutions

wedc
Loughborough University

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Research Institute for Water and Soil Management

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SFD Promotion Initiative

An excreta flow diagram (also often described as shit flow diagram, SFD) is a tool to readily understand and communicate visualizing how excreta physically flows through a city or town. It shows how excreta is or is not contained as it moves from defecation to disposal or end-use, and the fate of all excreta generated. An accompanying report describes the service delivery context of the city or town.

- A tool for engineers, planners and decision-makers
- Based on contributing populations and an indication of where their excreta (septage or sewage) goes
- A representation of public health hazard
- An effective communications and advocacy tool
- An overview from which sanitation priorities are developed

- Based on actual volumes/ mass – these are determined by other related factors
- A representation of public health risk
(risk = hazard x behavior)
- A precise scientific analytical tool

SFDs are a useful tool to inform urban sanitation programming. They offer an innovative way to engage city stakeholders like political leaders, sanitation experts and civil society organizations in a coordinated dialogue about excreta management. They can also be used for advocacy.

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