

UGANDA:IMPROVING THE STATE OF SANITATION

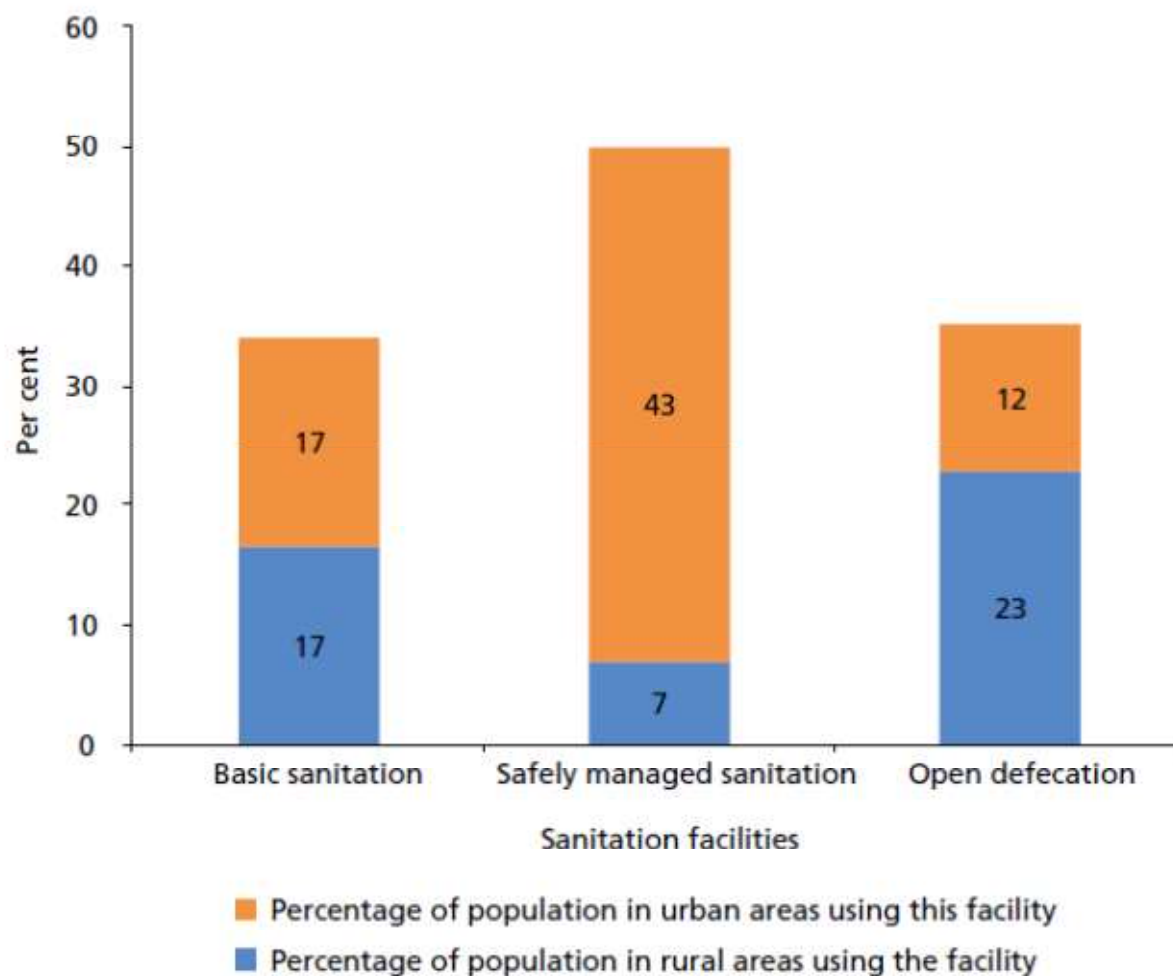
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What are the issues?

1. Most of Uganda—which is rural (75 %)—uses unimproved sanitation, causing contamination of water sources.
2. The main causes of such unsafe sanitation practices are lack of investment in the sector, proper regulation, monitoring and evaluation, and availability of efficient technologies.
3. There is a need to develop a strong institutional framework for sustainable management of faecal sludge and wastewater management.
4. The country needs to rethink on technologies to treat black and grey water safely— there is also a need for major capacity building programmes.
5. The connection between water and toilets needs to be understood. To make toilets functional, one needs to a constant supply of water in toilets.

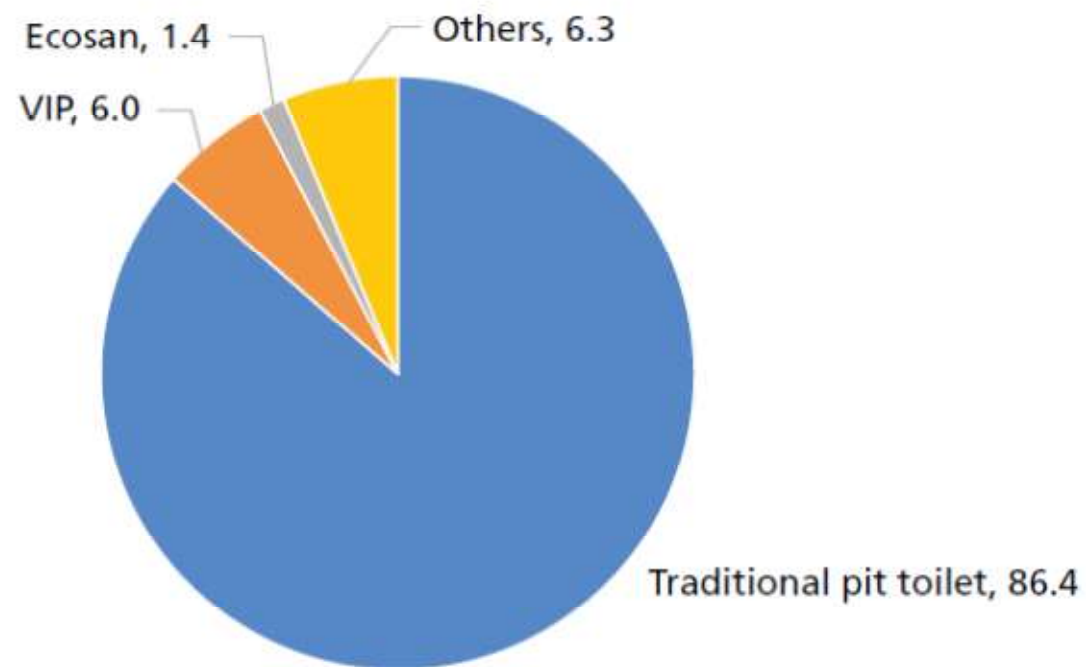
Since the country depends mostly on underground water, Uganda needs to develop a strong policy for decentralized systems for harvesting rain.

Uganda's urban and rural sanitation practices in FY 2018–19



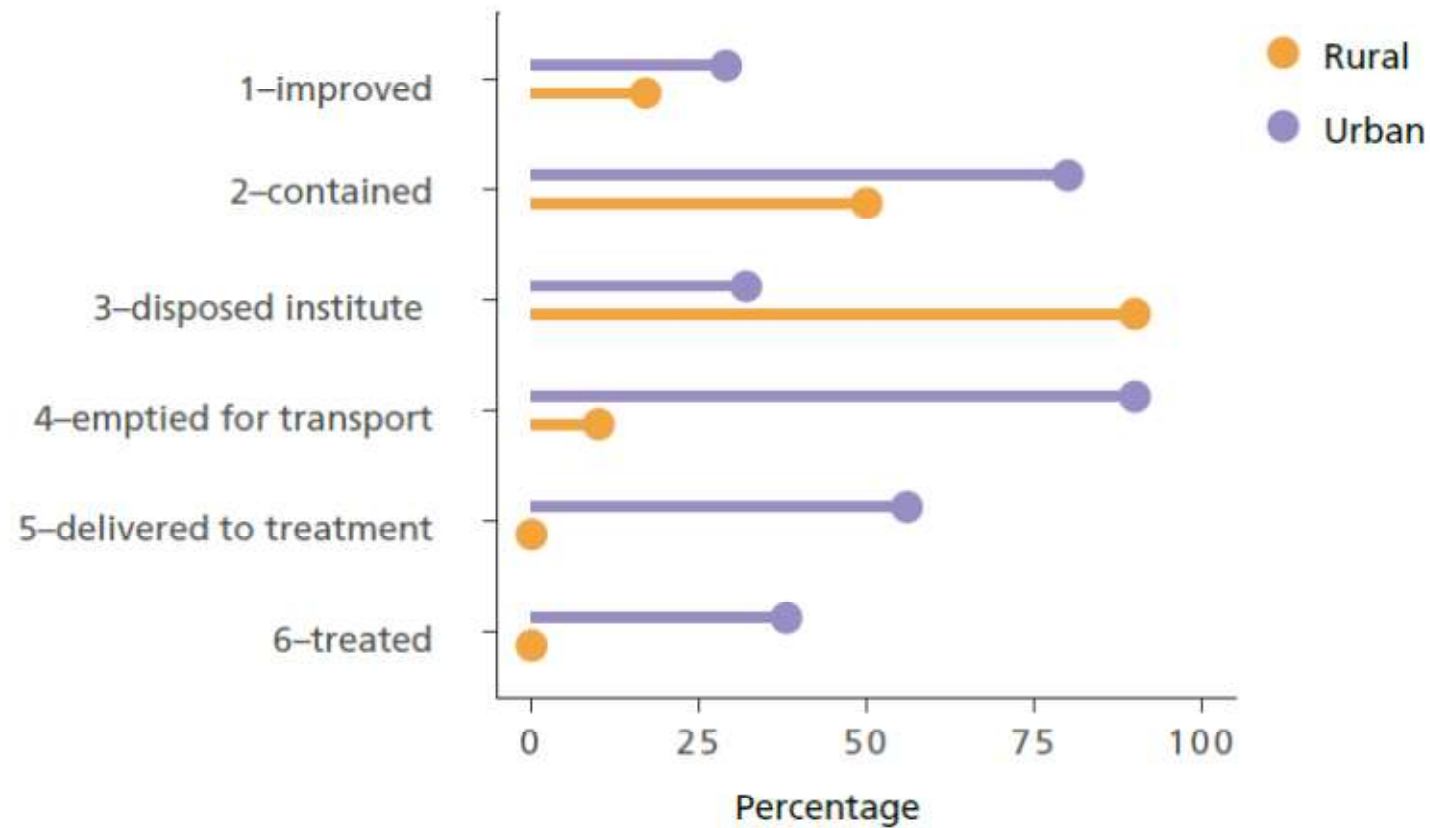
Source: Uganda Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2019

Percentage of beneficiaries using basic sanitation facilities in rural Uganda in FY 2018–19



Source: Uganda Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2019

Sludge management in Uganda



Source: https://www.susana.org/_resources/documents/default/3-2747-7-1488881310.pdf

Task 1: Strengthening legal and institutional structures for effective implementation

1. The roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, from household owners to government authorities and private agencies, should be well defined.
2. Capacity-building and awareness programmes should be planned for users, artisans, NGOs, CSOs and government authorities involved in the sanitation sector.
3. The local government authorities should develop and implement faecal sludge by-laws, comprising conversion of insanitary toilets to sanitary toilets and implementing best practices of emptying and collecting faecal sludge and transporting it to treatment facilities. Conditions for issuing licenses to private de-sludgers should be well defined to safeguard the health of the people who empty the pits/tanks as well as the community.

Task 2: Create a manual/menu of toilet technologies linked to treatment systems

Uganda has diverse hydrological conditions, varying from shallow groundwater (0–12 metres below the ground) to deep groundwater (30–66 metres below the ground) levels. Toilet technologies are accordingly proposed as follows:

1. Biogas-plant-linked toilets are the best option for every part of the country.
2. Dual-pit toilets are suitable for areas that have limited water supply and the groundwater level is not less than 8 metres below the ground.
3. Ecological sanitation toilet is suitable for areas where water is scarce as well as those that easily get waterlogged.
4. Septic tanks are suitable in small towns (classified as rural) without a centralized sewer system, where cost is not a constraint.

Task 3: Work on ensuring safe treatment or reuse of household excreta

The following options are suggested:

1. Constructed wetlands at the community level are the best option for rural areas. In areas that are prone to severe waterlogging, the base of the wetlands should be structurally modified as per soil conditions.
2. Soil biotechnology is the best option to treat wastewater at the community level in small towns, where cost is not a constraint.

In cases where existing sewage treatment plants are nearby, sludge from the settlements can be brought to these plants and co-treated with sewage. This is a more cost-effective option than building new faecal sludge treatment plants.

Task 4: Link water availability with sanitation and reuse

The link between toilet sustainability and water supply in toilets must be understood.

Over 90 per cent of water supplies in the country depend on groundwater. Uganda has adequate rainwater-harvesting potential to cater to its household needs.

The country should implement the following:

1. Introduce small-scale water-harvesting systems;
2. Revive traditional water-harvesting systems;
3. Focus on groundwater-recharge structures;
4. Involve communities (especially women) in small-scale projects. Make them aware and motivate them through incentivized schemes; and
5. Water should be mandated for functional toilets. Government should provide support to the communities.

Thank You