



Online **ADB Sanitation Dialogue 2021**

ACCELERATING INCLUSIVE SANITATION

12–22 April 2021

Strategies to Keep Sanitation Services Operating The role of sanitation workers & the sustainability of sewerage sanitation

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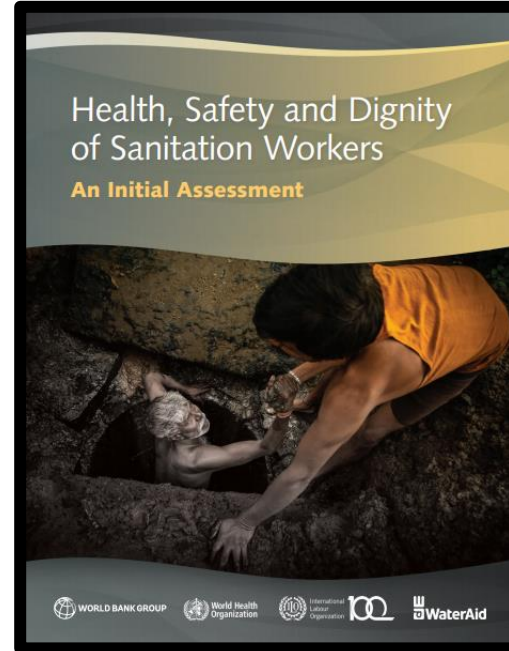
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Health, safety and dignity of sanitation workers

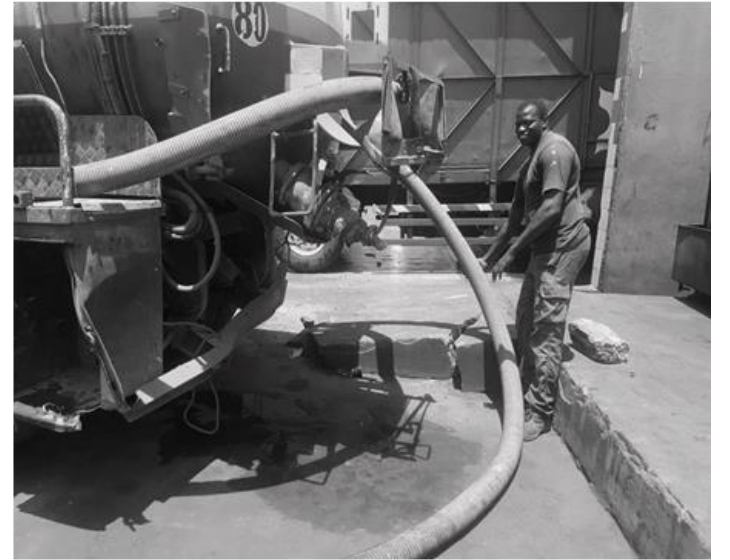


<https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/health-safety-and-dignity-of-sanitation-workers>

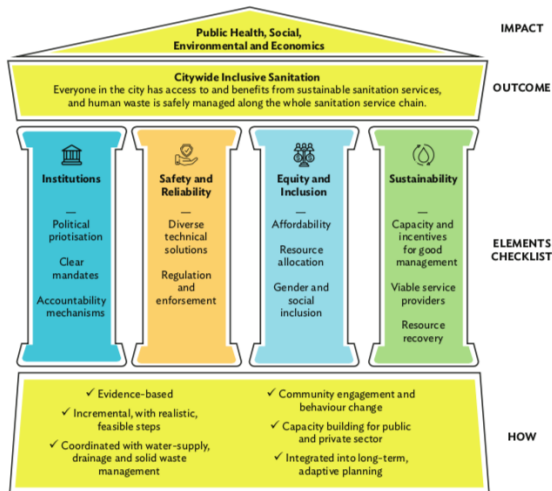
<http://sanitationwork.wateraid.org/>



Sanitation Workers



What is Citywide Inclusive Sanitation



Main Findings: Challenges and risks

Social	Financial	Legal and Institutional	Health and Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stigma, persecution and discrimination- Low-profile: not to be known in their society as manual pit emptiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Poor pay- Job insecurity- No employee benefits or health insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of laws and regulations- Laws in place not implemented- Informality- No unions or associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exposure to faecal pathogens, toxic gases and chemicals, work in confined spaces → physical injury, illnesses, asphyxiation, and death

Good practice

- Acknowledgement and formalization
- Addressing occupational and health risks (eg PPE, health services)
- Regulation and enforcement
- Associations and unions
- Alternative business opportunities



Action areas

- **Policy, legislative and regulatory reform**
- **Development and adoption of operational guidelines**
- **Advocacy and empowerment of sanitation workers**
- **Building the evidence base**



Initiative for Sanitation Workers: global advocacy project

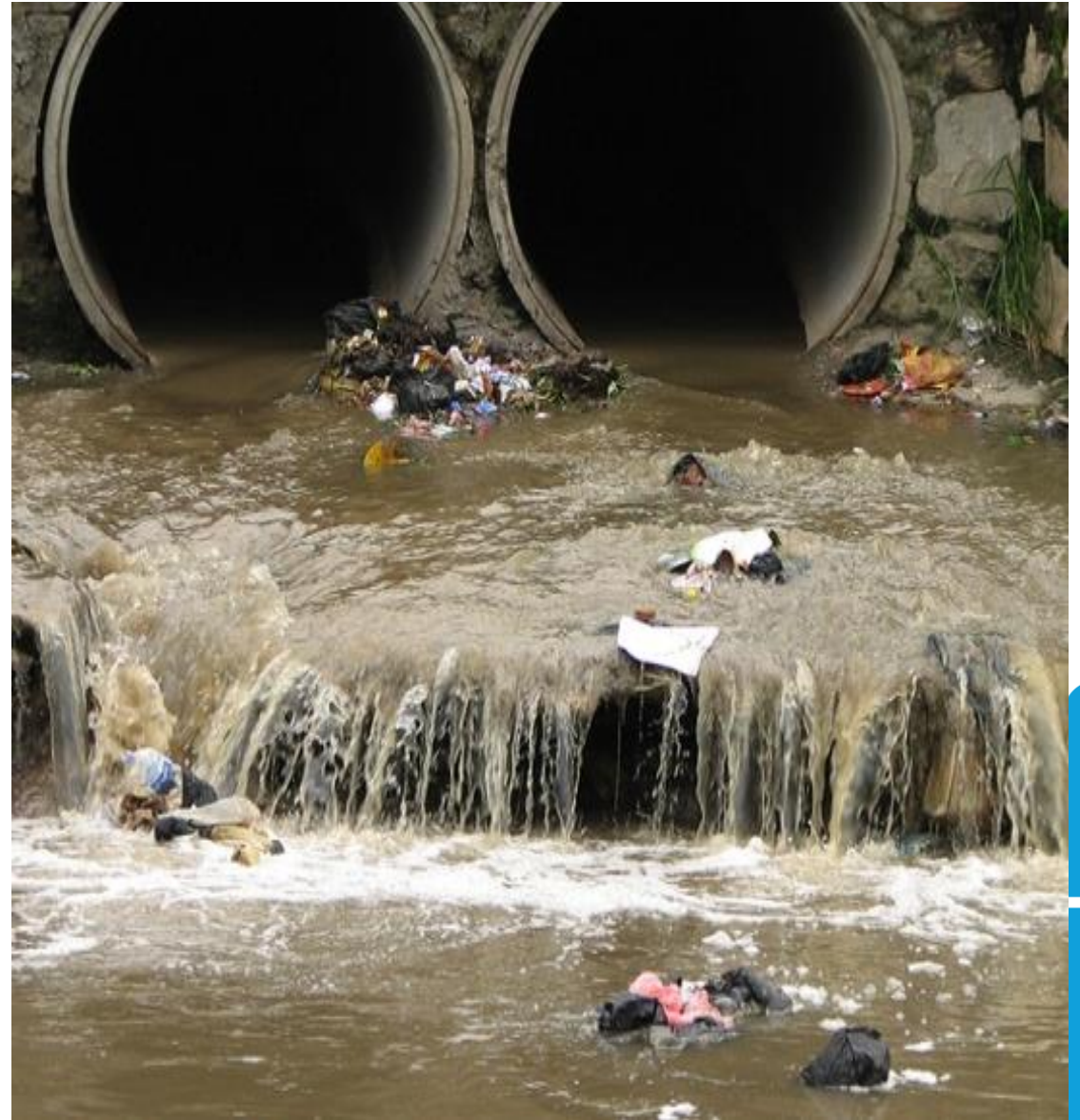
- Objectives:
 - **Political prioritisation:** Support inclusion of sanitation workers' rights in government and civil society political agendas at the national and local levels
 - **Mainstreaming in WASH and labour sectors:** Influence both sectors to ensure sanitation workers' rights are mainstreamed in implementation and monitoring
 - **Address knowledge gaps:** Support research initiatives and products to supporting political prioritization and implementation for sanitation workers

ID	Activity
0	Core group and advisory committee
1	ILO South Asia meeting on sanitation workers
2	National and global commitments
3	Networking support
4	World Bank Investments
5	Dissemination at events
6	Multimedia exhibition
7	Mobilizing labor movement
8	Developing research agenda
9	Incentivizing research
10	Guideline models
11	Technological innovation
12	Data gathering checklists
13	Quantification and health evidence
14	Online platform



Sustainability of large sanitation investments

A desk review



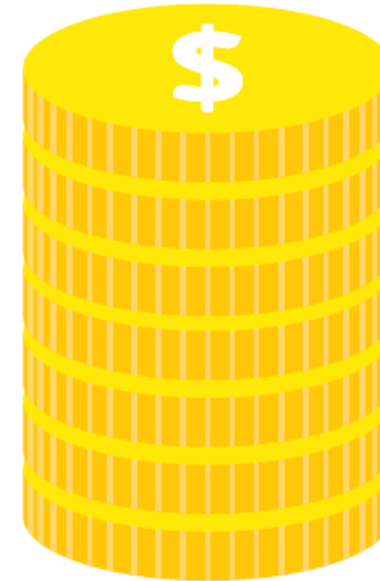
ODA to large sanitation systems

22% 

of WASH funds go to large sanitation systems

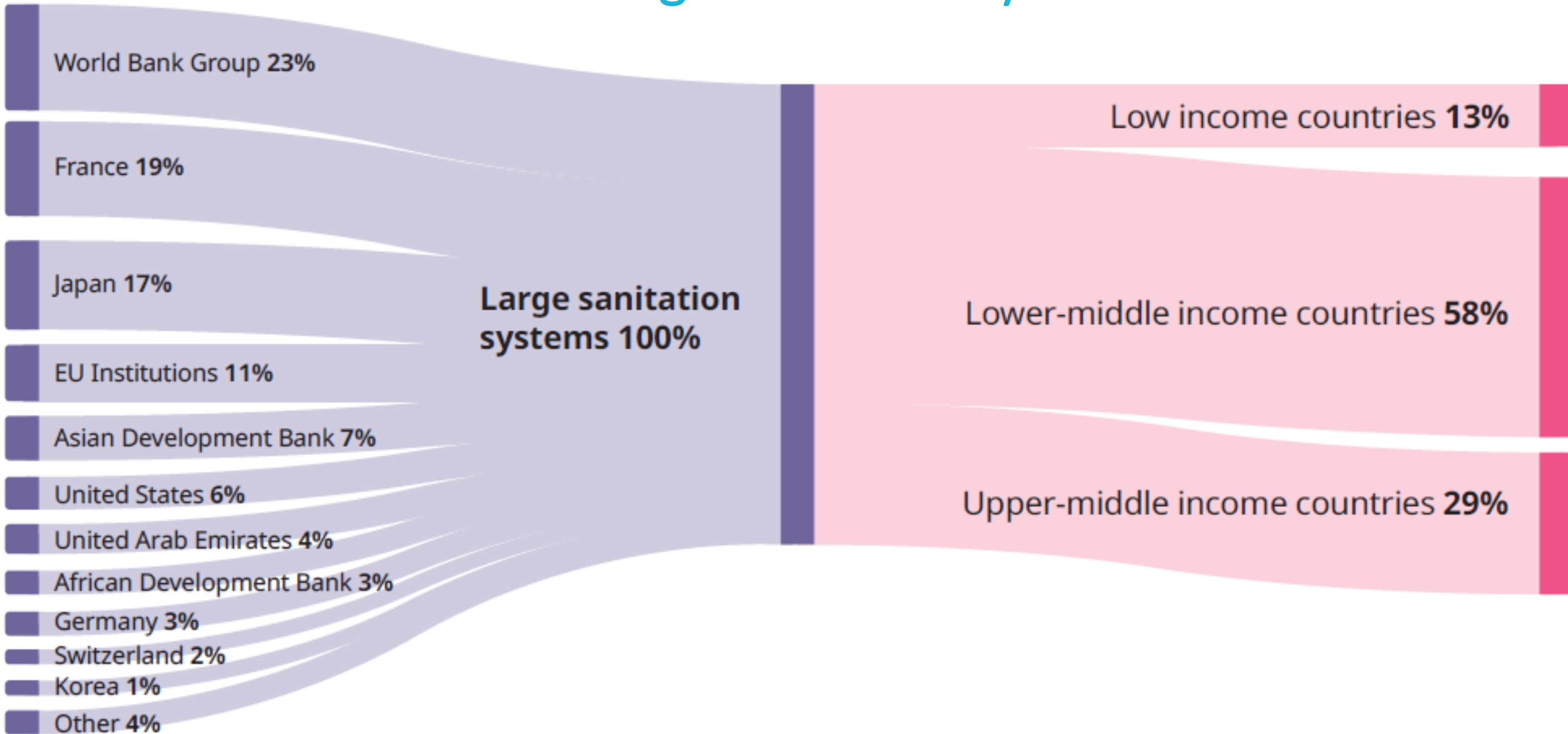


USD 506 million



USD 1,104 million

ODA to large sanitation systems



Evidence of poor functionality and sustainability

- Little detailed evidence published for low- and middle-income countries.
- The review revealed many examples of WWTPs (proxy) built but never commissioned, taken off-line, and continually overloaded or underloaded.
- Unclear how prevalent the problem is. Multi-plant studies (mixed quality and old!):
 - In Mexico, 95% (of 194) WWTPs studied were not working.
 - In Ghana, 80% (of 44) WWTPs were not working.
 - In **India**, 54% (of 84) WWTPs were operating poorly or very poorly.
 - In **Vietnam**, around 33% (of 17) WWTPs were substantially underloaded.
 - In Brazil, most plants met effluent standards.

The causes

- Upstream issues, resulting in too much or too little wastewater
 - Inadequate operations and maintenance (O&M) – eg switch off due to high electricity bill
 - Technology choice and design increasing O&M difficulties
 - Institutional constraints: political priority; recurring finance; capacity and systems for O&M
 - Donors focused on new construction or rehabilitation
-
- ‘Professional’ preference for expensive and inadequate technologies
 - Political incentives and vested interests favour big infrastructure projects, but not adequate O&M
 - Limited citizen scrutiny (those with sewers mostly unaffected)

Response needed

- Make good practice the norm
- Shift paradigm: from infrastructure to service
- Institutional reform, strengthening the capacity of local institutions
- CWIS approach – move beyond “just off-site”, look whole-chain