

Cities of Tomorrow: Progress Report

BRIEFING NOTE

June 2017

Achieving universal access to adequate, sustainable and equitable sanitation and hygiene services in the Cities of Tomorrow

Aim and objectives

Aim: The Cities of Tomorrow research project aims to work closely with the main stakeholders in Babati town, Tanzania to build the evidence needed to help develop and inform a town-wide sanitation and hygiene plan.

In this first phase, the research protocol has been revised and approved with the following objectives:

- To understand what motivates and drives people (households) to invest in and improve sanitation and hygiene practices in an urban context.
- To understand what drives institutions (government, donors, NGOs, authorities), and private sectors to invest and/or improve sanitation and hygiene practices in an urban context.
- To understand the main economics, social, political and institutional determinants of success for urban authorities to design and implement an inclusive sanitation and hygiene plan.
- To understand the prevalent practices and risk factors and potential options for managing faecal sludge.
- To support in developing Babati town-wide sanitation and hygiene adaptive master plan that promotes inclusive, sustainable and affordable hygiene and sanitation services for all.

Research progress

Data collection

Formative research was conducted in 480 households in 8 wards of Babati town, and data are currently being analyzed. Additional data is being collected through focus group discussions, a political economy analysis of six towns in Tanzania (including Babati) and the development of a Shit Flow Diagram. Structure observations of hygiene behaviours are underway in 179 households. A mapping of Babati's 20,000 households' sanitation coverage and emptying practices is ongoing using mobile technology.

Collaboration with BTC, BAWASA, Spatial Master Plan Consultant

The research project has started to feed into the development of the Babati Spatial Master Plan. A meeting between the Spatial Master Plan consultant and the research team was used to initiate this process and explore ways that the research can continue to feed into this development process. WaterAid and NM-AIST offered detailed evidence-based contributions to the sanitation and hygiene section of the Spatial Master Plan.

A preliminary Shit Flow Diagram for Babati

The collaboration between NM-AIST, WA and the University of Leeds along with key stakeholders in Babati has resulted in the development of a preliminary Shit Flow Diagram (SFD). A stakeholder meeting was held in May 2017 to present and discuss the current sanitation situation in Babati and develop a preliminary SFD (see Figure 1). The SFD helps to identify whether a town is managing its faecal sludge safely even if it has high sanitation coverage. In the case of Babati, the improved sanitation coverage is around 82%, however, after going through the SFD exercise it is evident that only 35% of the HHs are actually managing faecal sludge properly/safely. We can conclude that provision of HHs sanitation facilities alone is not enough in a small town like Babati to reduce faecal contamination. Hence, appropriate management of the faecal sludge from these HH facilities (along the entire service chain) is required.

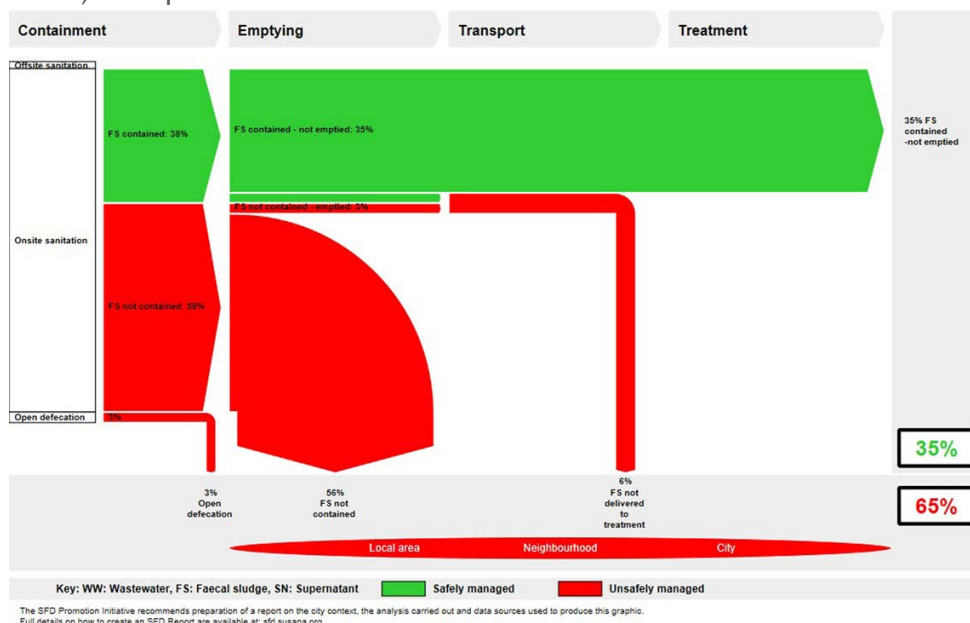


Figure 1: SFD diagram

Challenges

Delays in the timeline: The ethical approval took significantly longer to obtain in Tanzania than was originally anticipated. Whilst waiting for the approval, the team took advantage of the time to strengthen our partnerships with the Babati Town Council (BTC) and Babati Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (BAWASA) and begin to develop the research tools.

Partnership building

Partnerships with local authorities take significant time to build and maintain. Continued communication and clarification is needed with all partners. To strengthen the partnership WA, BAWASA, NM-AIST and BTC meet regularly to understand and clarify concerns, challenges, ways of working and roles and responsibilities.

Research into Use

A key aspect of this project is to ensure engagement with sanitation and hygiene stakeholders in Babati and to engage with the city-wide planning process. The challenge however is that the timeline set by the BTC is quite tight (as they are constrained by a national government deadline) and comes before the final data analysis will be complete. The second challenge is that conventional wastewater systems are still the first to be considered and included in Master Plans and it will take time to shift stakeholders' mindsets and opinion around alternative options.

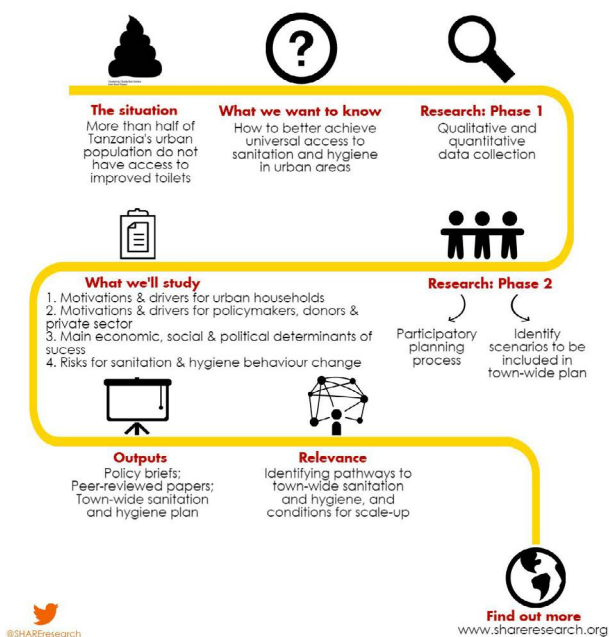
Next steps

Data collection and analysis will be completed by autumn 2017. Within the month of June, the team will work to include the available research findings in the draft of the Babati Master Plan.

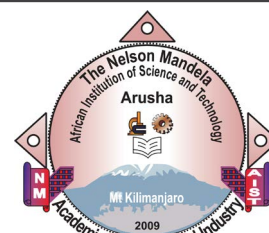
Cities of Tomorrow: Universal Access To Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Tanzania



Achieving universal access to adequate, sustainable and equitable sanitation and hygiene services in Babati, Tanzania.



Contributors



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