



Water, Energy, Transport

Sustainable sanitation

The challenge

Today more than one third of the world's population has inadequate or no sanitation services, and is thus unable to live in conditions fit for human beings. In addition, less than 15 per cent of the world's wastewater is cleaned, meaning that vitally important water resources and ecosystems are contaminated. Unhygienic living conditions are jeopardising human health and life. Every day, several thousand people, especially children, die from the effects of diarrhea and worm infections. Reduced productivity by those affected also has significant economic ramifications.

The causes for inadequate provision of sanitation services to people living in many emerging economies and developing countries are manifold. Dealing with excrement is a rigid taboo in many societies. Policy-makers often lack awareness and interest in this issue. Government institutions also have a high employee turnover. Furthermore, those who suffer most – poor people and weak members of society – do not have a lobby working to improve their living conditions. At an institutional level, there is frequently no legal framework or sustainable implementation strategies to promote effective service structures and institutions in the sanitation sector. Financing strategies lacking in innovation and technical systems that are typically not designed sustainably have also prevented the necessary 'quantum leap' in household access to sanitation services up until now. Countries also often lack skilled workers, especially at the municipal level, to ensure that efficient and sustainable water supply and sanitation is in place.

Our approach

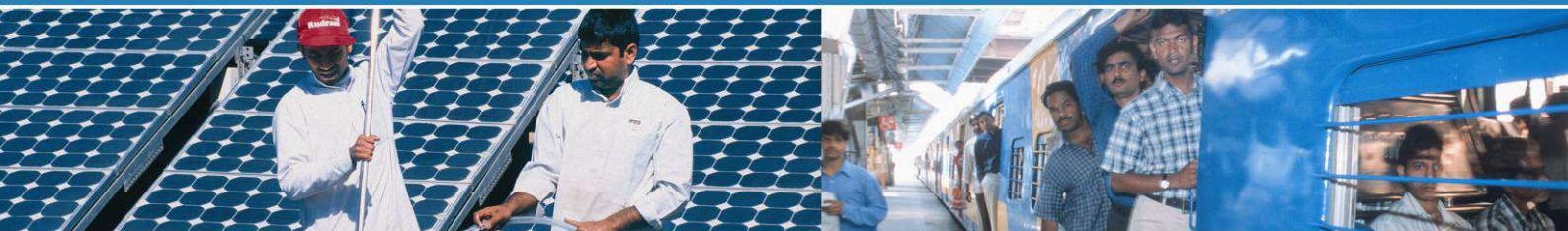
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is conducting projects to improve sanitation in more than 25 countries on behalf of the Ger-

man Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ). We provide organisational and specialist advice for institutions and utility companies, develop sustainable sanitation strategies and raise awareness among decision-makers and users. We assist our partners in altering national structures and procedures so that they can make a lasting improvement to the population's living conditions. A demand-oriented approach is essential to successfully disseminating sustainable sanitation solutions.

Lasting solutions require sanitation systems to be economically and institutionally sound, accepted by users and technically suitable. They must also be environmentally sound and conserve resources. Using treated wastewater and available nutrients in faeces as fertiliser plays a key role in this process. Ecological wastewater and sanitation strategies focus on this aspect.

Our services

- **Advisory services:** Specialist and management advice for local partners, supporting and accompanying demonstration projects and promoting inclusive solutions (upscaling), notably in partnership with bilateral development cooperation projects in the water sector.
- **Capacity development:** Support in elaborating human resources development strategies, in workshops, in developing university and school curricula, providing materials, offering specially developed online learning courses.
- **Policy advice and strategy development:** Support in developing strategies, the legal framework, planning procedures, guidelines and technical and operating standards.
- **Information service and knowledge management:** Preparing and providing information about technolo-



gies and implementation strategies, using case studies to show best practices, exchanging information through networks such as the *Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)*, working together with professional associations and research institutes, using electronic media, organising workshops and conferences.

- **PR and mainstreaming:** National and international lobbying and public relations work.
- **Networking:** Strengthening global networks for sustainable sanitation, especially through the SuSanA network.
- **Promoting public-private partnerships (PPP):** Fostering the initiation of PPP projects to build and operate sanitation facilities in order to safeguard the value-added chain.

Your benefits

Working together with GIZ opens up new prospects and opportunities for planning, installing, managing and financing sanitation and wastewater management systems around the globe. Risks to human health and environmental damage caused by household wastewater polluting water bodies are mitigated. Sustainable sanitation and wastewater management protect water and soil resources and reduce environmental risks. Moreover, toilet residues can be used for irrigation after sophisticated treatment. Reclaimed nutrients and trace elements help to improve agricultural soil fertility, boosting yields. In addition, more and more countries are

using the biomass contained in wastewater (sewage sludge) to generate renewable energies, with the corresponding economic benefits. Planning and installing gender-sensitive sanitation infrastructure in schools has been shown to result in more girls attending lessons. Hygiene advice using modern communication methods, especially in schools, is an effective means of changing behaviour in target groups.

Practical examples

The western African country of Benin (population: around 9 million people) developed municipal planning procedures for sanitation services starting in 2008 and established them as the national standard in 2010. 64 of 77 municipalities have now formulated bankable projects in their plans and have tackled their implementation with the help of development partners.

Broad-scale and thus lower-cost sanitation solutions were developed in Kenya and Zambia, especially for low-income households in slums and on the outskirts of towns and cities. The aim is to design on-site solutions that are technically and economically sound so that they can be run together by municipalities, local water utilities and private service providers and be combined judiciously with traditional solutions (sewage networks) if necessary.

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