



## Senegalese Sanitation Actors Association (AAAS)

# CALL TO ACTION

## SENEGALESE SANITATION SERVICE PROVIDERS CALL FOR A BETTER PRIORITIZATION OF THE SANITATION SUB-SECTOR IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

The sanitation sub-sector has gained unprecedented momentum over the last years, resulting from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prioritizing access to safely managed sanitation for all. In multiple African countries, including Senegal, notable progresses have been made in the provision of equitable sanitation services. However, this momentum has been held back since the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic has forced African States to redefine their economic priorities in order to guarantee equitable access to healthcare services for all and maintain national economies stable.

The sanitation sub-sector through the Sanitation Service Providers (SSPs) faces numerous challenges associated with COVID-19. Despite households increasingly needing emptying services due to lockdown measures, SSPs see a considerable drop in their activities. This can be explained by household income reduction which relegates emptying services to the second place in terms of household expenses. The economic losses generated from this situation will considerably impact the post-pandemic period.

Main challenges faced by Sanitation Service Providers:

- Drops in sanitation companies' turnover and difficulty to maintain a good quality of life.
- Non-consideration of the sanitation sub-sector in the economic response plan implemented by the State.
- Excessively high taxes, especially on mechanical emptying trucks.
- Informal nature of certain sanitation service providing businesses.
- Difficulty obtaining loans and other supports from financial institutions.
- Difficulty in repayment of contracted loans.

To contribute to the improvement of quality access to sanitation for all in Senegal, it is crucial to identify solutions and support measures aiming to mitigate the pandemic's effects on Sanitation Service Providers.



### SSPs CAPACITY BUILDING

We call on the Government of Senegal and the National Sanitation Utility (ONAS) to support private Sanitation Service Providers through the implementation of Post COVID-19 Resilience Plan.

The implementation of an effective and resilient strategy would generate concrete results, such as a reorganization of stakeholders with an improved coordination. This plan will incorporate the local context and provide tailored solutions based on private SSPs' needs.



### ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM REINFORCEMENT

We call on the Government to include the sanitation sector among those who benefit from tax reliefs. Such an engagement from the Government would allow providers to maintain their activities and generate profits to compensate for business expenses.

We call on the Government to implement zero-rate measures for sanitation, particularly of emptying truck acquisitions and fuel purchase. The implementation of tax incentives for private SSPs will help maximize gains and operation of the sector.



### FINANCING

We demand that financial institutions establish a renegotiation and easing for granting of loans system, as well as repayment terms towards sanitation companies during the pandemic period.

We call on national financial institutions to create flexible and sustainable financing mechanisms for private sanitation companies, in preparation for the post COVID-19 period.



### PARTNERSHIP

We call on Technical Partners to support Sanitation Service Providers to improve their solvency, structuration and capacity building to become creditworthy to raise necessary capital for their businesses.

It also comes to support struggling SSPs in developing tailored business plans to sustain their activities post-pandemic.

We demand that Technical Partners develop, in partnership with financial institutions a Seed or Emergency Fund to support private operators, including rapid access conditions and prime rates with delays.



### QUALITY SERVICE CENTERED APPROACH

We demand that Sanitation Service Providers ensure optimal quality service. We call upon emptiers to remain alert with compliance with safety measures because both customer and provider health and security are paramount. Together, we can protect one another.



### EMPTIERS LICENCE

Once more, we appeal to the President of the Republic of Senegal to sign a Decree for emptiers licensing, to allow them to acquire a license to enhance the reliability of their businesses.