



CALL TO ACTION TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

REACHING SANITATION SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICAN CITIES



Access to adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities is recognized as a fundamental right and it is also part of the Sustainable Development Goals targeted for 2030.



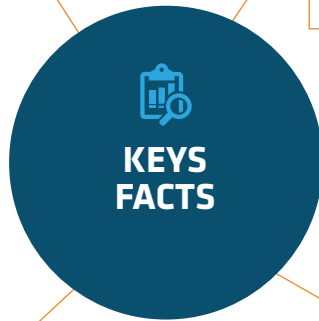
1 IN 3 PEOPLE

still live without adequate sanitation facilities. In West Africa, this number reaches 75% of the population, and puts a considerable burden on health and economic development (OMS/UNICEF, 2017).



MORE THAN 2 BILLION

people around the world use onsite sanitation systems (WHO, 2017), however they do not have access to adequate fecal sludge management systems. As a result, waste is being dumped directly into the urban environment, with significant consequences on health and environment.



African cities are undergoing rapid urban population growth mainly due to rural-urban migration and natural population growth. This population growth without improved infrastructure and services fosters the rise of informal settlements and slums deprived of basic adequate sanitation facilities.

Empowering local authorities for an increased involvement in the sanitation sector

Municipalities are increasingly responsible for the management of sanitation due to decentralized government policies. While territorial collectivities need to be equipped with the necessary resources in order to carry their duties, they are often strictly granted with the powers and not the means (financial and human) to do so effectively.

Main challenges faced by municipalities:



Institutional framework with unclear definition of roles and responsibilities between the State and territorial collectivities;



Low access to adequate funding for sanitation activities;



Lack of knowledge of the State's budgetary nomenclature;



Lack of clear budget line for sanitation within the national budget.

How can local authorities contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2?



Municipal Sanitation Policy

Based on a clear understanding of the current local situation, design gender inclusive and equitable sanitation policies within the municipality's urban strategic plan that incorporate both sewerage sanitation (SS) and non-sewerage sanitation (NSS) and address the full value chain.



Responsible Management Entity

Define an entity or department that will be responsible for the implementation of sanitation policies and act as a focal point with government stakeholders, utilities, local service providers and slum management boards to build an inclusive and multisectoral sanitation approach.



Sanitation Planning

As the first step in the process of sanitation planning, invest in the assessment of the current sanitation sector at the municipality level, while including sewerage sanitation, non-sewerage sanitation and the full value chain.



Financing

Determine and allocate the necessary funds to implement the city's strategy.

- a. There is an annual budget for sanitation planning and operations.
- b. Taxes or tariffs support a known portion of operations and maintenance costs.



Sanitation Strategy

An adequate equitable and gender inclusive sanitation strategy shall address the following components:

- a. A city sanitation strategy exists and incorporates NSS and SS.
- b. An equitable and inclusive sanitation strategy leads to the development of innovative technologies and pro-poor financing mechanisms.
- c. Land is allocated for fecal sludge treatment plants.
- d. A local department is responsible for monitoring and ensuring effective land allocation for fecal sludge treatment plants.
- e. City regulations or guidelines exist to regulate the full NSS value chain.
- f. Containment regulations or guidelines address emptying operation.
- g. Collection regulations or guidelines indicate health and safety measures.
- h. Transport regulations or guidelines support enforcement.
- i. Treatment regulations or guidelines guide and support safe reuse.
- j. Regulation or guidelines address service provision in informal settlements.
- k. Regulation or guidelines address private sector engagement.

About us



Headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, Speak Up Africa is a Policy and Advocacy action tank dedicated to catalyzing leadership, enabling policy change, and increasing awareness for sustainable development in Africa. Through our platforms and relationships and with the help of our partners, we ensure that policy-makers meet implementers; that solutions are showcased and that every sector – from individual citizens and civil society groups to global donors and business leaders – contributes critically to the dialogue and strives to form the blueprints for concrete action toward public health and sustainable development on the continent.