



SaniPath



Workshop Background

Public Health Data in Sanitation Planning

FSM5 & AfricaSan5

Cape Town International
Convention Center 2, Nerina and
Protea

Friday, February 22nd, 2019

9:00—12:30

Convened by:

Emory University Center for Global Safe
WASH, Lusaka City Council, Kampala
Capital City Authority, Makerere
University School of Public Health,
icddr,b, TREND Ghana, Kumasi
Metropolitan Assembly, World Bank

Recent trends in urbanization and changing population dynamics have led to a dramatic rise in populations living in urban areas throughout Africa and Asia. These urbanizing populations settle in areas in which water, sanitation and hygiene systems are already overburdened, and many live in unplanned or illegal urban or peri-urban settlements. Rapid urbanization has outpaced sanitation services and fecal sludge management (FSM) in many cities in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa leading to gaps in FSM along the sanitation value chain. Shit Flow Diagrams have highlighted the points where unsafely-managed fecal waste enters the environment, but equally important is understanding where this waste ends up and the public health risks associated with its unsafe management. Sanitation decision-makers currently have a number of tools at their disposal to increase the availability and accessibility of data to support evidence-based decision-making. However, there are few opportunities to share the results of these tools and how they have been, and can be, used to influence sanitation investment, policies, and decision-making practices. This workshop allowed participants to learn about the approaches, successes, and challenges of organizations who aimed to utilize public health data in urban sanitation decision-making and to engage with fellow participants on ways to improve evidence-based decision-making in the sanitation sector. The convening organizations have all utilized the SaniPath Exposure Assessment Tool to understand exposure to fecal contamination in urban and peri-urban areas and shared their experience using this tool in the framework of factors that influence decision-making.

Results to Action

- Data sharing and open data platforms should be encouraged to allow for increased reach of knowledge sharing and learning opportunities
- Data collection and results development activities should be directly linked to actions
- Tool outputs and sanitation planning research results can be difficult to interpret—guidance should be provided explicitly to allow for understanding from a wide variety of technical and non-technical audiences
- Publication bias, especially in academic settings, can influence action—organizations need to highlight both successes and failures because you can learn as much from things that work as things that didn't work
- Applied research and basic research both have their place in sanitation planning and development and can answer different questions for policy- and decision-makers—in both cases it is important to communicate results in accessible formats (i.e. not only academic journal publications)
- University and government collaborations need to be promoted to ensure capacity building and sustainability of data collection, results development, and evidence-based actions (*see Box 1 for SaniPath example*)
- Sustainability of data collection activities and limited resources will continue to be challenges to the use of sanitation planning tools

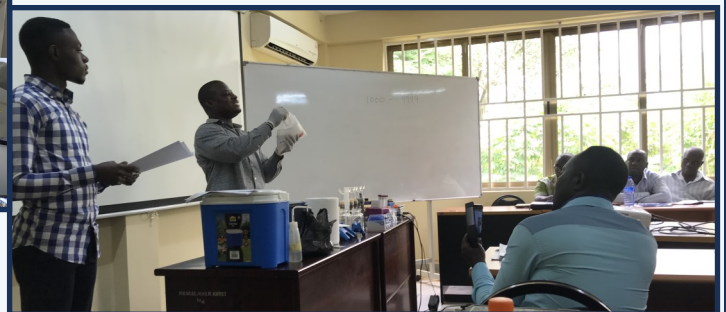
Box 1: Government and Academic Partnerships in Sanitation Planning

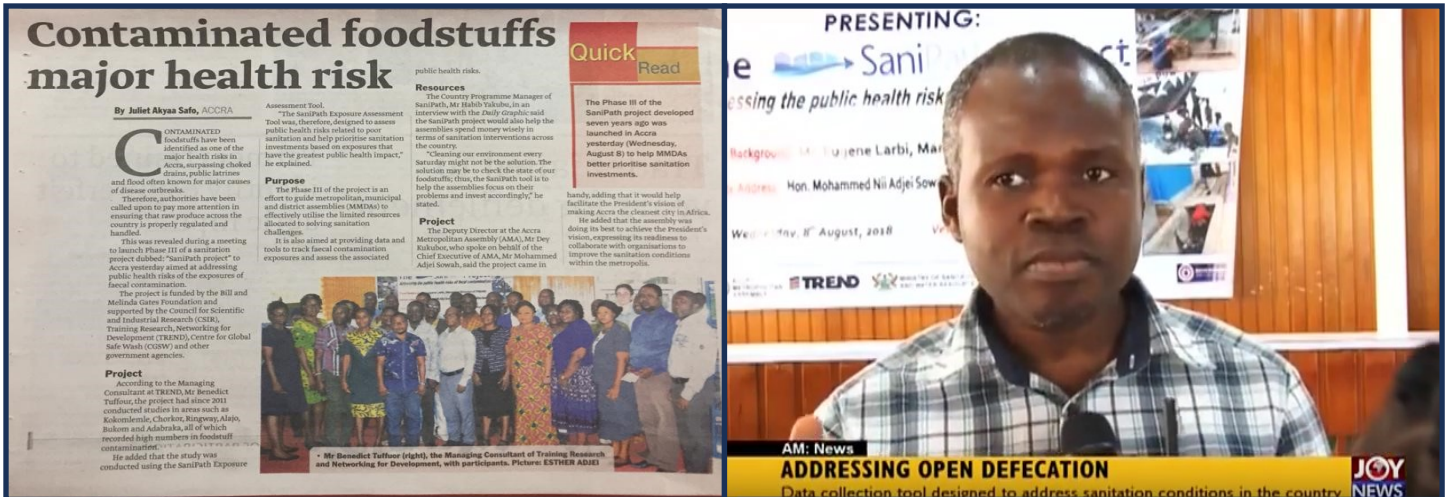
The application of the SaniPath Tool in Accra and Kumasi Ghana, Kampala, Uganda, and Lusaka, Zambia involved a strong partnership between municipal government authorities and university-sponsored laboratories. These partnerships have built the relationships and capacity within the involved organizations and enabled them to conduct further assessments to be informed and aided by previous experience. The relationships extend beyond only performing SaniPath Exposure Assessments and has led to interest in government utilization of academic laboratories for testing of environmental samples for policy enforcement activities and to further the evidence base for decision making.



University of Zambia Laboratory (Partner of Lusaka City Council on SaniPath Exposure Assessment)

Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly Staff training by Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology





Dissemination of findings in Accra and Kumasi, Ghana via print and televised news media increased the reach of the results and increased advocacy for the use of results.

Results to Action cont.

- Increased impact of advancing results to action can be realized through strengthening service delivery institutions and developing partnerships with these institutions and academic and research organizations
- Statistical analysis and interpretation skill development is needed at the municipal level to strengthen local capacity for decision-making
- Tools and technology for sanitation planning should be designed in a way so as to lower barriers to performing evidence-based decision-making
- Remaining Challenges:
 - Sustainable data collection and continuous resource availability for sanitation planning research is often not a reality—opportunities for lowering the barrier of performing data collection and sustainable funding mechanisms need to be identified
- Local government capacity to perform data collection and analysis activities is not always present—partnerships with local academic or community-based organizations can provide support to overcome this challenge
- Effective and sustained stakeholder engagement in data collection, results generation, and evidence-based decision-making remains a challenging task
- Timelines for taking action and making decisions on sanitation planning are often very short and limit the use of sanitation planning tools—integration of tools and approaches to aid decision-making in routine planning activities can be used to decrease the resource and time intensity of these tools

Sanitation Planning Tools

- Paper is not dead—paper-based data collection tools may work better for some aspects of research, especially for consenting requirements
- With open-source sanitation planning tools comes risks for data quality—training on the use of tools and quality control procedures are essential to ensuring the quality of results coming from the use of these tools
- Capacity development is necessary for primary data collection tools and hands-on, practical training is essential
- Sanitation planning tools must provide guidance on the context in which they are applicable or ways in which to adapt the tool to fit different needs and environments—if they are used in inappropriate environments they will yield inappropriate results
- Sanitation planning tools, their data, and the results they generate are good if and only if the back-end statistics and assumptions of the data analysis are solid
- Messaging for sanitation planning tools must be strong and comprehensive to build support for and increase access to the use of the tools
- Decision-makers need a clear idea for the use of the data up front prior to using planning tools
- Simplified, short reports and visualizations speak to policy-makers and politicians
- Mobile data collection is becoming trendy—paper can be bulky and time consuming when it comes to analysis of data



Thank you for attending!



For more information on the SaniPath Tool:

Visit the Center for Global Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene at Emory University!

www.cgswash.org

Visit the SaniPath website at:

www.sanipath.org

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