Rethinking Sewers

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Without proper sanitation, waste enters the environment directly.
But existing sewer networks often have problems of their own
Challenges with sewers

- Oversized systems
- Low household connection rates
- Poor design and/or construction
- Combined sewer overflows – how to handle high stormwater flows
- Missing manhole covers, allowing rubbish and sediment to enter system

Photo courtesy of R. Kennedy-Walker
Striking the right balance: sewers and onsite sanitation

- A *diversity of technical solutions* should be embraced, being adaptive, mixed and *incremental*

- Combining *both onsite sanitation and sewerage solutions*, in either *centralized or decentralized systems*, to better respond to realities faced in cities

- Effective *resource recovery and re-use should be considered*

- Need to also consider *complementary services*: water supply, drainage, greywater, solid waste

*Why are we not replicating/scaling up successful experiences?*
Session overview

• Condominial Sewers in Brazil
• Simplified Sewers in Senegal
• Slum Networking in India & South Africa
• Connecting the Unconnected
• Group Discussions around Implementing Appropriate Sewerage
THANK YOU!
Discussion Questions

• How can you apply these ideas/approaches in the places where you work?

• What obstacles have you faced/would you face in applying these approaches?

• What other resources would be helpful in applying these approaches?