SNV

Sanitation Workers
and Occupational
Health and Safety in
urban sanitation



Urban sanitation and hygiene for health and development





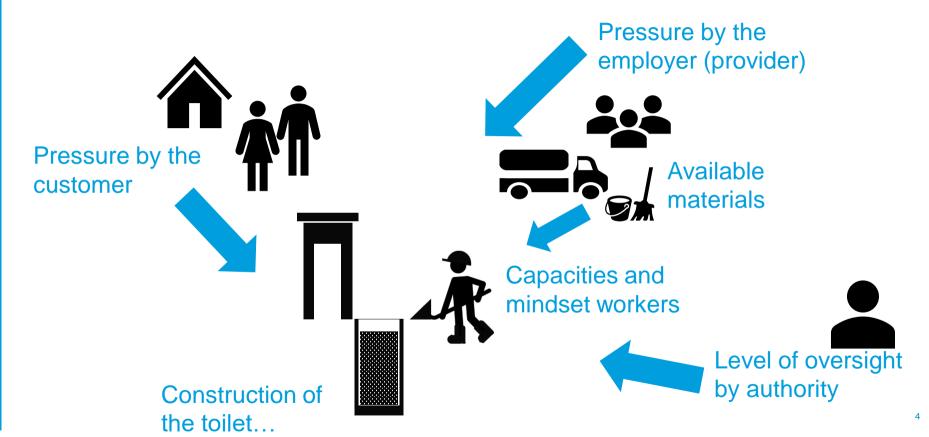
Background

 Practices in occupational health and safety(OHS) included in April 2018 baseline in 16 cities, 4 cities with partial sewer

- Household survey (sample 17,254 households, 95% on-site):
 - ➤ Household observations of emptying practice (only 15% of on-site facilities was ever emptied)
- FGDs with emptiers, providers:
 - For emptying services (16 cities)
 - For sewer operations (4 cities)
- Discussions with local authorities



Factors influencing occupational health and safety in emptying

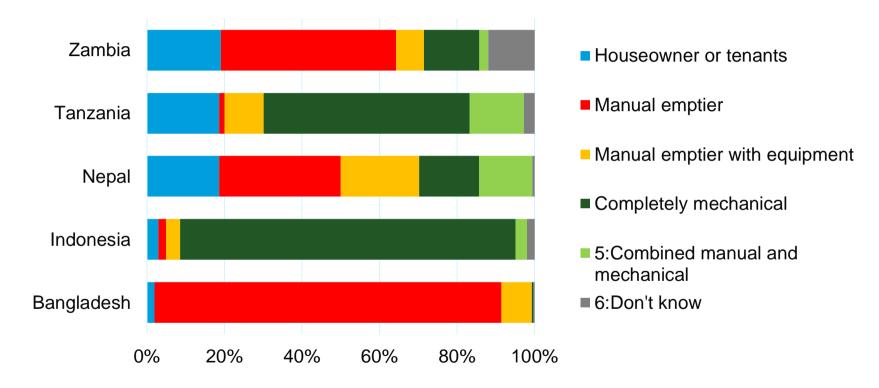




Note: we did not measure at the treatment facility

Who empties?

Percentage of respondents over total households that emptied

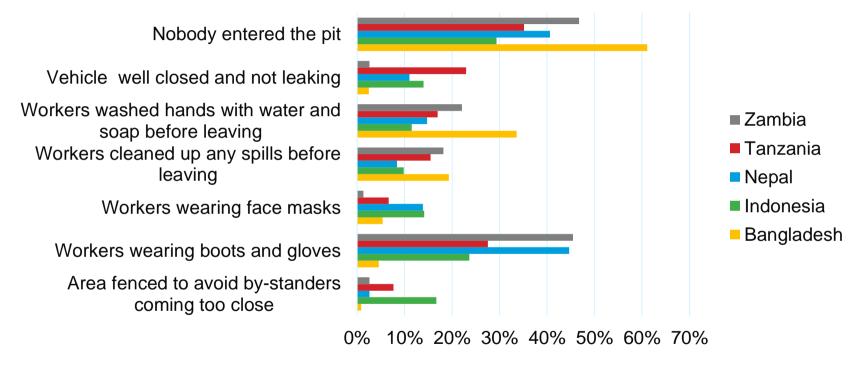




Large variations in who does the emptying, which should be considered in guidance as well as regulation.

Emptying behaviours observed by households

Percentage of respondents over total households that emptied



Pit entering still an issue, PPE an issue. Other OHS issues tend to be neglected



What about enabling factors?

- Progress on OHS in emptying services
- Progress on OHS in sewer
- Progress in professionalisation of FSM services
- Progress in timely maintenance of the sewer network
- Capacity and strategies for enforcement of standards in emptying

With service providers (public or private)

With authorities



Private sector emptying does not "fix" the OHS risks

Average scoring on Emptying method avoids entering into pit, falling or OHS measures pit collapse in FSM Discharge method not Vehicle marked as spraying or splashing of transporting FS sludge Workers trained on on Minimum PPE (boots, Private gloves and face masks)? the protocol **Public** Protocol for major accidental spills during Provision for HWWS transport Cleaning materials and Vehicle inspection for disinfectant (lime or never leaks and spills prior to bleach) for accidental transport rarely spills during emptying... Provider cleans and sometimes disinfects any spills after emptying mostly always



Mechanical emptying does not "fix" the OHS risks

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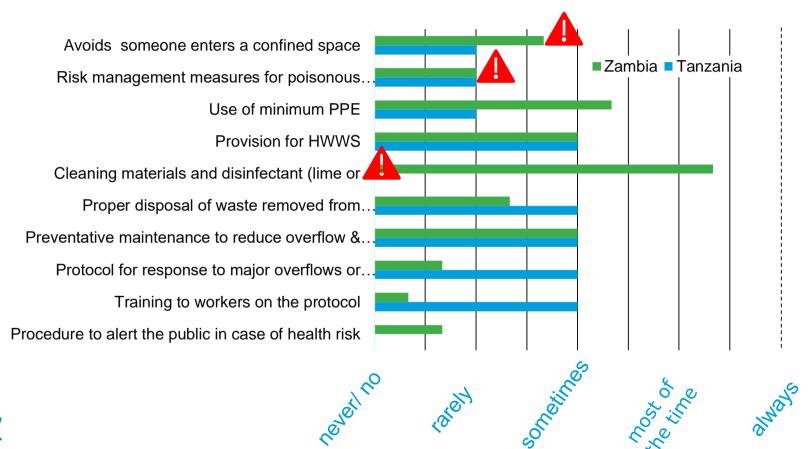
Professionalisation of emptying services

- 50% has formal recognition as a service provider
- Only 26% has a basic procedure for emptying
- Payment important, all emptiers have basic payment arrangements
- 15% has provided basic training to staff in OHS
- 35% does not have suitable equipment





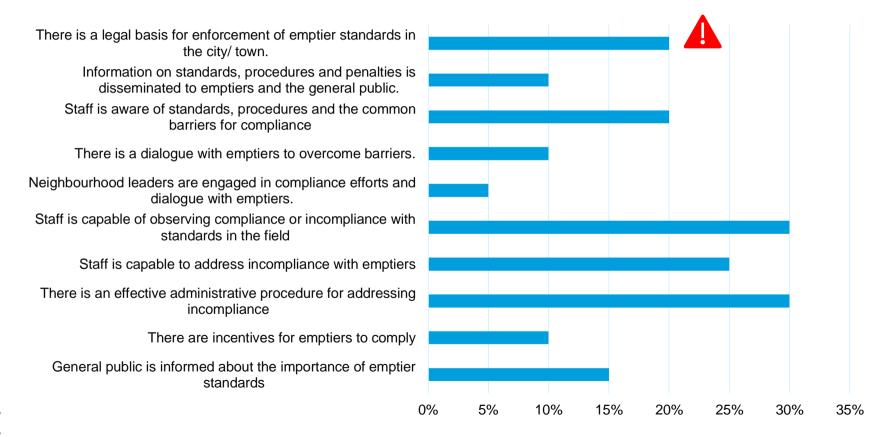
Scoring on OHS measures in sewer maintenance, towns Tanzania and Zambia





Capacity and strategies for enforcement of standards in emptying

in percentage of towns scoring basic or above





Activities: formative research with emptiers (Tanzania)



Knowledge

Basic understanding of health issues and unaware of OHS laws/OSHA



Roles

Assistant mechanised emptiers also do manual emptying



Enforcement

Warnings; salary deductions; temporary suspension; fines



Health

Medical expenses not covered by employer



Awareness

No formal OHS training, info via friends/co-workers

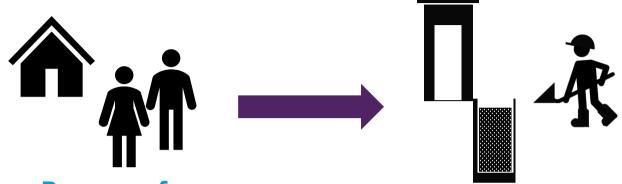


Job

Low pay, temporary contracts, poor accessibility of certain sites



Awareness creation with customers, employers, emptiers



Pressure from customers





Docu drama
The Poo Journey



Caravan



Celebrity letter



SMS



Miking



National emptiers conventions

1st: Ensuring decent work conditions for all







2nd: Ensuring safe working environment

3^{rd:} Emptiers to entrepreneurs



Towards regulation and standard operating protocols

- The Local Government Ministry instructed all local authorities through a Circular – to enlist, train and certify (manual) emptiers
- The Department of Public Health and Engineering has prepared a National OSH Training Manual, and promotes trainings

















Conclusions

- The OHS practices in sanitation a far below what is acceptable, including in off-site systems!
- Improving the conditions of sanitation workers requires a holistic perspective and engagement of different stakeholders, including customers!
- Engaging public or private providers, or working with mechanical emptiers versus manual emptiers does not automatically improve OHS.
- OHS goes beyond PPE and not entering the pit.
- Professionalisation with clear working protocols, training and protocols for dealing with emergencies can reduce risk
 - Having a legal basis for enforcement of emptier standards in a town, seems a minimal condition for progress.

